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FINANCIAL TIMES

No. 29,787 ***

Saturday November 23 1985

 £1.35p 5 p.m. A. \$1.00
Canada C\$1.00 Bermuda \$1.50

**OVERSEAS MOVING
BY MICHAEL GERSON**
01-446 1300

WORLD NEWS

Summit lifts hopes in US

Senior US officials echoed President Reagan's hopes of further progress in relations with the Soviet Union in the wake of the Geneva summit, but warned that progress would be slow.

National security adviser Robert McFarlane said the summit had succeeded beyond reasonable expectations in establishing a very fair understanding on both sides of the other country's purposes, priorities, ambitions and willingness to compromise. Back Page

Rail fares to rise

British Rail is to increase passenger fares by an average of more than 8 per cent in the New Year. Page 4

Trial for McGlinchey

Dominic McGlinchey, once Ireland's most wanted man, was sent for trial at Dublin's anti-terrorist court on charges connected with his capture in March last year. Page 2

Heath's warning

Former Prime Minister Edward Heath warned decision for Britain to quit Unesco would be a foreign policy error reflecting the growth in the UK of "nasty, narrow-minded nationalism." Page 6

Beirut ceasefire

A Syrian-mediated ceasefire took hold in Beirut after two days of fierce fighting which had interrupted the hostage rescue mission of Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's envoy. Page 2

Poland frees 110

Poland said it had released 110 political prisoners this month for humanitarian reasons. They were all first-time offenders. Page 12

Reagan biographer

President Ronald Reagan has selected Kenya-born historian Edmund Morris to write his biography. Mr Morris accompanied Mr Reagan to Geneva for this week's summit. Page 12

French dock strike

French dockers have called a 48-hour strike from midnight in protest against job cuts. Most ports are to be affected but ferry services are unlikely to be disrupted. Page 12

Mach 12 jet plan

The Pentagon is to proceed with a \$500m (£345m) plan to develop an engine for an aircraft capable of flying at 12 times the speed of sound—5,850 mph—and circling the globe in under four hours. Page 12

Alcohol 'air hazard'

Heavy drinking by passengers and large amounts of alcohol on planes are a "serious air hazard," a British pathologist told the New Delhi inquiry into the crash of an Air India jet off Ireland, in June. Page 12

Cuban sugar hit

Cuba said it feared a reduction in its sugar crop after Hurricane Kate damaged 2.5m acres of cane—equivalent to a quarter of the country's cultivated land—this week. Page 12

Doe pledges fair trials

Liberian leader Samuel Doe promised speedy and fair trials for those arrested in connection with last week's abortive attempt to overthrow him. Page 12

\$50,000 for Lloyd

Former West Indies cricket captain Clive Lloyd was given a cheque for \$50,000 (£30,000) for his services to the sport at an international tournament in the UAE. Page 12

SE heads appeal

The London Stock Exchange gave £1250 to the BBC's Children in Need appeal, donating 5p for each contract struck yesterday. Page 12

MARKETS

DOLLAR

 New York lunchtime:
DM 2.6725
FFr 7.3205
SFr 2.10525
Y301.2

 London:
DM 2.576 (2.583)
FFr 7.845 (7.8025)
SFr 2.105 (2.123)
Y201.4 (202)

 Dollar index 127.5 (128)
Tokyo close Y201.75

US LUNCHEON RATES

 Fed Funds 8 1/4 %
3-month Treasury Bills
yield: 7.47 %
Long Bond: 10 1/8 %
yield: 9.97 %

GOLD

 New York: Comex Dec latest
\$328.3
London: \$328.5 (\$328)

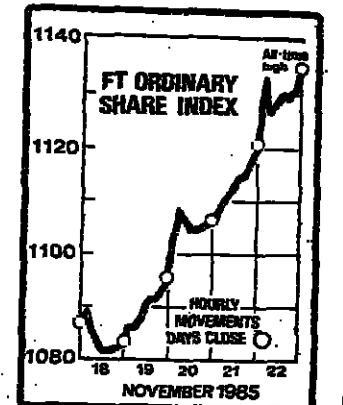
Chief price changes yesterday, Back Page

Continental selling prices: Austria Sch 18; Belgium Fr 42; Denmark Kr 7.25; France Fr 6.05; W. Germany DM 2.20; Italy L1.30; Netherlands Fl 2.20; Norway Kr 8.00; Portugal Esc 80; Spain Ptas 110; Sweden Kr 6.50; Switzerland Fr 2.20; Ireland £50; Malta 30.

BUSINESS SUMMARY

FT index hits record 1,135.4

EQUITIES advanced to record levels for the fourth consecutive day, strengthened by Wall Street's overnight surge but underpinned by the rash of recent favourable trading statements. The FT Ordinary share index climbed 13.8 to a record 1,135.4.



1,135.4, giving a rise of 52.2 since Monday's close. The FT-SE 100 rose 7.9 on the day to a peak 1,451, while the FT-Actuaries All-Share index rose 0.5 per cent to a record 698.84. Page 14

DOLLAR continued to lose ground on the view that central banks were keen to see it pushed lower and suggestions that US interest rates would fall soon. The dollar lost 1.7 pence to DM 2.576, while sterling added 1.2 cents to £1.454, its best closing level since March 1984. Page 13

HONG KONG share prices fell sharply following a Chinese warning over the pace and direction of political reform in the territory. The Hang Seng index lost 89.59 to 1,712.82. Back Page; World stock markets. Page 12

GRAND METROPOLITAN announced the sale of Mecca Leisure and Warner Holidays for £95m to a group of Mecca Leisure senior managers, backed by Samuel Montagu and the Royal Bank of Scotland. Back Page; Background, Page 4

FIAT of Italy was said to be in an advanced stage of negotiations for the acquisition of Ford Europe's British truck division through a joint venture deal. Back Page

COAL: The Government abolished the ceiling on the amount of money available to help industry switch to coal from other fuels. Page 4

PRINGLE of Scotland plans to invest £5m to set up a knitwear factory at Arbroath, north-east of Dundee, and expand its plant at Hawick in the Borders. Page 6

TIN: The London Metal Exchange decided to keep the tin market closed for at least another two weeks as Mr Paul Leong, Malaysia's Primary Industries Minister, flew into London for talks on the tin crisis. Page 4

PHILLIPS PETROLEUM of the US is preparing to spend a further \$250m (£172m) in an attempt to save the sinking central platform of the Ekofisk field in the Norwegian sector of the North Sea. Page 3

ORIENT OVERSEAS, the publicly quoted arm of the troubled Hong Kong-based C. H. Tung shipping group, made a loss of HK\$1.78bn (£158m) after extraordinary provisions in the first half of this year. Page 11

JAPAN'S 13 "city" or commercial banks improved their combined pre-tax profits by 1.2 per cent to ¥545.5bn (£1.86bn) in the half-year to September, as slower growth resulted from a narrowing in rate spreads. Page 11

KWIK SAVE, supermarket chain, lifted second half pre-tax profits from £17.45m to £20.6m, lifting profits for the year ended August 31 by over 13 per cent to £35.99m. Page 10

Heseltine in effort to arrange European rescue for Westland

BY BRIDGET BLOOM IN LONDON AND JAMES BUXTON IN ROME

A LAST DITCH effort to secure the future of Westland, Britain's only helicopter manufacturer, through an injection of European capital has been launched by Mr Michael Heseltine, the Defence Secretary.

Mr Heseltine is in intensive consultations with his French, Italian and West German counterparts to see whether arrangements can be made for the helicopter industries of the three countries, singly or collectively, to take shares in the troubled British company.

The minister is acting in the belief that the financial crisis surrounding Westland, which centres on a serious gap in its order books between now and 1990, could provide a unique opportunity for rationalising the European helicopter industry.

At present, this has too many manufacturers chasing too few orders in the teeth of efficient US competition.

Mr Heseltine's overtures, apparently so far made only in general terms, have been greeted with some sympathy. There are considerable fears on the Continent that the pollution most commonly canvassed for Westland—the purchase of just under 20 per cent of its shares by the US company, Sikorsky, which is owned by United Technologies—could adversely affect individual European helicopter manufacturers.

However, there is also considerable scepticism both in Britain and abroad over whether a European alternative can be found for the company both within the time available and

within the constraints imposed by the British Government.

The Government has set its face resolutely against using taxpayers' money to rescue Westland, but Mr Heseltine's European solution would have the state-controlled manufacturer of Italy or France investing in the British company.

Westland, which since June has been under the chairmanship of Sir John Cuckney, veteran of many corporate rescues, appears to favour the US solution to its problems.

It is believed that Sikorsky would be ready, within the tight timetable imposed by the need to produce preliminary balance sheet figures by the middle of next month, to come up with a cash injection in return for a minority stake in the company, as well as new work.

This would probably involve building the Sikorsky Black Hawk helicopter to tide Westland over until its new naval and utility helicopter, being built jointly with Agusta, the Italian company, is ready in the early 1990s.

The Italian Government and Agusta appear very worried by this prospect. Agusta is arguing that in the absence of a British rescue operation, its entry into a minority ownership of Westland is crucial to the future of the Italian company, and the best guarantee of Westland's survival.

This is because Agusta is already deeply involved with Westland in the new naval helicopter, called the EH101, and is working on a joint feasibility

study for development by the two companies of Agusta's A129 anti-tank helicopter to meet the needs of the Italian and British armies in the 1990s.

Agusta's future is heavily dependent on the A129. The company spent £700bn (£275m) on its development, but has so far received orders from the Italian army for only 60 aircraft.

From Italy's point of view, none of the other possible solutions is attractive. Sikorsky is developing its own anti-tank helicopter, which would rival the A129, while Aerospatiale of France and Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm of West Germany are working on a design for a rival anti-tank helicopter known as the Pa12.

The French and German companies are also believed to oppose a Sikorsky solution for Westland, mainly for the same reason as Italy but also because they are involved with Westland in a new helicopter for the 1990s known as the NH90. However, it is far from clear whether the two companies could overcome their rivalry with Agusta in particular to make a joint rescue bid for Westland.

Militarily and politically Agusta might seem the best European partner for Westland, but there are serious difficulties. Agusta is in almost as weak a financial state as Westland. It lost £120.5bn last year on sales of £1,555bn and predicts a loss of £90bn this year. About

Continued on Back Page

Murdoch group and print union in technology move

BY SUE CAMERON

MR RUPERT MURDOCH'S News International group has made an advance with the National Graphical Association, traditionally one of the most powerful print unions in Fleet Street, over introduction of computerised newspaper technology.

The union is understood to have told News International, publisher of the Sun, The Times, Sunday Times and News of the World, yesterday that it is prepared to accept the principle of direct, computerised typesetting by journalists on The Post, a London evening newspaper Mr Murdoch is planning to launch next year.

The union is also believed to have said that with the National Union of Journalists it will put forward jointly proposals for the operation of such a system at News International's new printing plant in London's Docklands.

The union's concession could open the way for other Fleet Street newspapers to move to computerised production and

so make substantial cuts in overmanning and correspondingly high wages.

To date the union has agreed to direct-input by journalists on several provincial newspapers but not a leading newspaper printed in London.

The union's offer was made in a letter to Mr Bill O'Neill, vice president of News International's News America subsidiary, the man called in by Mr Murdoch to conduct negotiations on the proposed move to Docklands.

The letter followed a meeting between management and union representatives yesterday afternoon. Another letter is understood to have agreed to direct-input for advertisements.

The second letter reiterates the union's offer of 55.5 staffing with the other leading print union, Sogat '82, in the tele-ad area of the Post. However, it says the NGA would be willing to accept Trades Union Congress arbitration on this.

Mr Murdoch wants to print his News of the World and Sun

newspapers, as well as the planned Post, at the £80m Docklands plant. Further, News International managers have said that if negotiations over the printing of the Post in Docklands go well they should be extended to cover the Now and Sun.

However, it is not known whether News International will agree to do a deal with the unions on the basis of the NGA offer. Negotiations with the unions over the move to the Docklands plant have dragged on. An exasperated Mr Murdoch is determined to take a tough line. He wants the unions to accept four other points before any final agreement is reached. These are:

- Any agreement to be legally enforceable.
- Management to have the right to decide on the number needed to do each job. At present the print unions decide.
- A no-strike clause.
- No closed shops. Employees to have the right to join a union.

Continued on Back Page

Laura Ashley comes to market

BY RICHARD TOMKINS

LAURA ASHLEY, the privately-owned company which has become a leading name in British fashion and design, is to be launched on the stock market next week through an offer for sale which will give it a market value of £269.5m.

The share issue, which City analysts expect to be heavily over subscribed, will raise £62.8m. Of the total, £36.8m will go to Ashley family interests and the Ashley Foundation, a charitable trust set up mainly to benefit children and medical causes. The remaining £26m net of expenses will be new money for the group.

Employees are each being offered £50 worth of shares free, and will also be given preferential rights to apply for up to 10 per cent of the 46.5m shares being offered.

The company was founded in 1953 by Mr Bernard Ashley and his late wife, Laura. In the last 30 years, it has grown from a small manufacturer of tea towels to an international design, clothing and furnishing group with 219 shops in 12 countries.

The proposed flotation was announced last summer. In September, Mrs Ashley, then deputy chairman, died. This has not affected the timetable for the listing.

The prospectus will be published on Monday. The shares being offered, of a nominal 5p each, represent 23.3 per cent of the enlarged share capital. The price will be 135p a share payable in full on application.

Laura Ashley's pre-tax profits have risen from £875,000 in 1980 to £14.1m in the year to last January on turnover up

from £25.4m to £96.4m. However, company expansion has increased borrowings to about £23m and it now needs capital to finance further growth.

Last summer, it started work on a £24m plant for textile and wallpaper production in Newtown, 11 miles from the group's headquarters in Carmar, Powys. Ashley is also adding rapidly to the number of shops it operates.

City reaction to the terms of the offer yesterday suggested that it would meet with a warm response. Brokers reported a high degree of interest from institutions and private investors.

Kleinwort, Benson, the merchant bank, is sponsoring the flotation, which is underwritten by Greaveson, Grant, the stockbrokers.

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Wall Street whistles to Mr Volcker's

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Hatton faces expulsion from Labour Party

BY JOHN HUNT

THE Labour Party's national executive will consider, on Wednesday, a possible expulsion from the party of Mr Derek Hatton, deputy leader of Liverpool council, and other left wing Militant Tendency city councillors in Liverpool.

Last night, Mr Jack Straw, a Labour front bench environment spokesman, said Mr Hatton's expulsion was inevitable. Mr Neil Kinnock, the party leader, has made it clear he would like Mr Hatton out of the party, and Dr John Cunningham, Labour's environment spokesman, said it would be "quite astonishing" if the question of expulsion were not raised by the NEC.

Liverpool's District Labour Party met last night to consider the city's financial crisis after the city council failed on Thursday to meet a deadline for submitting proposals to the Association of Metropolitan Authorities to end the impasse.

In response the association said it would take no further action on the city's £3m provided through unused borrowing rights among its member councils.

Mr Hatton, speaking before last night's meeting, said the council had been "completely betrayed by Kinnock, the rest of the Labour leadership, national trade union leaders and by much of the local white collar union leadership."

Mr Straw, interviewed on Channel Four television's A Week in Politics, said Mr Hatton had described himself as an active member of the Militant tendency. The party's annual conference had decided by a majority of five to one that Militant Tendency members were outside the Labour Party.

"My own judgment is that Mr Hatton's expulsion is inevitable and only a matter of time," he said. "I have always taken the view that members of the Militant Tendency should be outside the Labour Party and if they are in, they should be expelled."

The expulsion of six Militants in Mr Straw's constituency of Blackburn took a year. This would be the case if proceedings were taken against Mr Hatton.

The NEC would have to investigate his membership of the Militant Tendency and report back before a final decision. The Militants would then have a right of appeal to the party's annual conference.

Mr Straw described the Liverpool City Council tactics as "grotesque and appalling." He

said he Labour leadership would support any proposals to restore normality to Liverpool "and if that meant having to bite the bullet of commissioners, we would do so."

Mr Kinnock, speaking on BBC Radio's World at One, said the expulsion of the Militant Tendency might be difficult but was not impossible. "It was a matter that the NEC may want to take a view on."

He said Mr Kinnock and his supporters had to accept the policies and programmes of the Labour Party and the principle of democratic socialism. Otherwise "they have absolutely no place in the Labour Party." He condemned the behaviour of the Liverpool councillors as "recklessness and foolishness."

The Labour Party leadership is likely to support the Government in the Commons if it decides to appoint commissioners to run Liverpool.

Yesterday a group of Liverpool Labour MPs led by leftwinger Mr Eric Heffer made it clear they would oppose such a move. They made a statement criticising Mr Kinnock's approach to the problem.

Mr Heffer, MP for Walton, Mr Eddie Loyden, MP for Liverpool Garston and Mr Robert Parry, MP for Liverpool Riverside, said they would be appalled if the Labour Party supported the introduction of commissioners to run the city.

They warned they would resist such legislation, and would be prepared to go against the official Labour Party line in the House.

In a statement, they said some leading people in the party—seen as a reference to Mr Kinnock—had overreacted to the Liverpool situation. They said Liverpool councillors had acted in the terms of Labour Party policy and "abuse and talk of disowning" them did not help.

Mr Kenneth Baker, Environment Secretary, again seemed to rule out early Government intervention in Liverpool's financial crisis. He placed the blame for the city's problems firmly on councillors and appealed to the Labour group to act "legally and responsibly" to stop the authority from going bankrupt.

Speaking on BBC Radio's World at One, Mr Baker said: "The problems of Liverpool, as I have made very clear, are quite capable of being solved by the Liverpool City Council."

Liverpool using 'Micawber defence' Page 4

WEEKEND FT



PENGUIN PACKAGE

The Falkland Islands see tourism as our answer to economic problems.

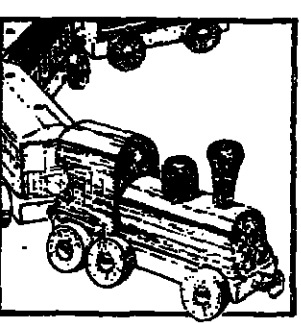
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How to read an annual report.

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DIVERSIONS

Even Father Christmas needs advice and guidance. Lavinia under the Post asks children what they would like to find in their stockings.

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SPORT

Who is six foot two inches, weighs 25 stone and is known as "The Refrigerator"?

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OVERSEAS NEWS

13 killed in township clashes, say police

By Anthony Robinson in Johannesburg

Official death toll in the township clashes between police and demonstrators in the township of Mamelodi near Pretoria on Wednesday was 13 yesterday when the reported finding bodies of various parts of the township.

Newly delivered police officers were used to disperse crowds during the clashes but police denied reports by local residents that police had fired on the crowd from them.

"No shots of any nature were fired from helicopters," a police spokesman said.

A local magistrate yesterday imposed a weekend ban on all funerals in the township which was reported to be tense last night.

The Mamelodi parents' organisation is seeking an urgent meeting with Mr Louis Le Grange, Minister of Law and Order, to complain that notice gave no warning before shooting on a large crowd of mainly elderly people and youths protesting against a ban on funerals, high rents and the army and police presence in the township.

Police alleged that they had been "confronted by a particularly violent mob" and "barricaded by petrol bombs and handbombs. Residents said violence started when police fired teargas at the protesters.

The death toll was one of the highest in a single day in the past 15 months of anti-apartheid violence. The Government has confirmed more than 800 deaths, but the toll is thought to be more than 900.

Meanwhile, in Cape Town, police arrested three people after a grenade was thrown at a group of soldiers standing beside their armoured car near the Crossroads squatter camp.

A further 404 people were arrested under emergency regulations last week.

Anthony Robinson reports on growing speculation that the African National Congress leader may be freed

The risks Pretoria would run in releasing Mandela

OF ALL the demands made on the South African Government none is more persistent or universal than the demand to release Mr Nelson Mandela, the 67-year-old leader of the banned African National Congress (ANC) who has been in jail for the last 22 years.

Whether in the form of defiant graffiti chalked on township walls, as a condition for calling off consumer boycotts or as recommendations from foreign governments and bankers, the essence is the same — release the man who has become the symbol of black resistance to apartheid.

Last January, during the opening of the new tri-cameral parliament, President P. W. Botha dropped his previous insistence that Mr Mandela could only be released into the custody of a homeland and offered to release him into South Africa proper, provided he agreed publicly to forswear the ANC's policy, reluctantly formulated in the early 1960s, of the overthrow of the Government and the apartheid system.

Once again Mr Mandela proudly refused to accept anything but his unconditional release. Since then the domestic and international pressures on South Africa have increased, and so has the belief that releasing Mr Mandela and negotiating with the ANC is an indispensable pre-requisite for meaningful black-white negotiations.

Three weeks ago Mr Mandela was taken from Pollsmoor Jail

to a nearby Cape Town hospital and operated on for an enlarged prostate gland. The operation was successful — but Mr Mandela has not been taken back to jail, fuelling speculation that the Government may be about to release him, on compassionate grounds.

Despite official denials speculation mounted this week when Mr Mandela's wife Winnie flew to Cape Town from Soweto, where she is living in defiance of an eight-year government banning order obliging her to live in a remote Free State village.

AN ANC spokesman said at the organisation's headquarters in Lusaka that he could not confirm that a new release offer had been made

to Mr Mandela, Patti Walmeir writes from Lusaka. But he stressed that any offer which was conditional on the ANC leader remaining in exile would be rejected.

Her visit was followed yesterday by that of two lawyers acting for the Mandela family. But prison regulations required a "no comment" when asked whether they were bearers of a new government offer to their client.

While speculation continues over the timing of Mr Mandela's release, however, sober voices are weighing up the possible consequences, and expressing serious doubts. For Mr John Kane-Berman, director of the Institute of Race Relations,

also very risky, Mr Kane-Berman believes. "That way he would become a king across the water, the leader of a government in exile which would soon gain widespread international recognition." This would not only embarrass South Africa abroad but would put paid to hopes of a negotiated, democratic settlement to South Africa's political future.

The South African businessmen who went to Lusaka last month to meet ANC leaders, and who questioned them as to

the manner and context of release are the key issues.

The most superficially attractive option for the Government would be to release Mr Mandela but hastily bundle him out of the country to Lusaka or elsewhere and declare him a prohibited immigrant in the hope that after the initial clamour he would sink into obscurity like Mr Toivo Ja Toivo, jailed leader of the South West Africa Peoples Organisation (Swapo) who was released two years ago.

Such a move would not only be cruel to a man who has served 22 years in jail, it would

be very risky, Mr Kane-Berman believes. "That way he would become a king across the water, the leader of a government in exile which would soon gain widespread international recognition." This would not only embarrass South Africa abroad but would put paid to hopes of a negotiated, democratic settlement to South Africa's political future.

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whether they would accept Mr Mandela's release and exile, are understood to have received an affirmative reply, which they passed on to Pretoria. But the latest word from the ANC in Lusaka is they have changed their minds. Hitherto Mr Mandela has rejected such a condition.

It may be forced upon him. If so the risk is that Mr Mandela would take the next air-plane back to South Africa and court immediate re-arrest.

But a similar risk exists if Mr Mandela were to be released unconditionally into South Africa and threw himself back into leading an organisation which is banned, as he has promised to do.

Under these circumstances it appears virtually impossible to see how the Government could release Mr Mandela until such time as it has made up its mind to unban the ANC, release other jailed leaders such as Mr Walter Sisulu and Mr Govan Mbeki (jailed with Mr Mandela) and permit the return of ANC leaders in exile.

Before doing that however, it would have had to make up its mind about what exactly it was going to negotiate about — and the ANC has made clear that it is only prepared to negotiate a form of power sharing which would lead to a black majority in a unitary state based on one-man, one-vote. There is no sign that the Government is anywhere near such a radical volte face.

Dr Naude, who was banned by the South African Government from 1977 to 1984 for his anti-apartheid views, said British churches as well as the government, needed to give much stronger support to end the violence or apartheid as soon as possible.

Council of Churches, said the recent mild sanctions by both President Reagan and the Commonwealth conference raised "serious doubts in our mind whether pronouncements expressing moral repugnance against apartheid were intended to be taken seriously."

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Nelson Mandela 20 years ago. The photograph is the one invariably used throughout the world in newspapers and on posters campaigning for his freedom, but bears no great resemblance to his present appearance, as will be discovered if and when he is ever released from prison.

However, the discreet descriptions by people who have been permitted to visit him, originally on Robbin Island and now in Pollsmoor, outside Cape Town, agree that his hair is white and his face heavily lined—he is after all 67.

They also agree (at least until his recent operation) that he has kept himself fit. He exercises rigorously every day and has the physique, and general air of health, of a man many years younger.

Renault to stop car assembly in S. Africa

By Our Johannesburg Correspondent

RENAULT, THE French car maker, yesterday announced its decision to cease its South African car assembly operations at the end of this year, a decision which closely follows a similar decision by Peugeot earlier this week.

The decision to cease assembly of its Renault 9 and 11 models will "seriously affect" the position of Assemblée Vehicle Assemblers (AVA), formerly Leyland South Africa, which assembled the cars at its Elsie River plant near Cape Town which also assembles Landrovers and heavy trucks. Approximately 500 jobs will be lost in an area of high unemployment which has recently been affected by township violence.

Renault started assembly at the AVA plant in 1983 and had a 5.1 per cent share of the South African car market. Peugeot, whose 504 and 305 model cars were assembled by Samec, a joint venture between Anglo American Corporation and Ford, had only 1 per cent of the market and announced its decision to leave South Africa earlier this week.

Both companies investigated the possibility of co-operation but decided to leave the overcrowded market in view of "heavy losses and the continuing poor outlook for the car industry." Alfa Romeo announced its intention to leave South Africa two months ago following the example of Volvo, Fiat and Leyland Cars which have also pulled out in recent years.

Rand depreciation has introduced a new urgency into current rationalisation plans for the South African motor industry which is re-grouping into three or four main groups.

AP adds: While economic factors are the overriding factor in the pullouts, financial analysts say the growing pressure for disinvestment in the US and Europe have accelerated the exodus of marginal loss-making companies.

South African inflation hits record high

SOUTH AFRICA's year on year inflation rate rose to a record 16.8 per cent in October, fuelling concern that the Government's recent package of tax relief, and lower interest rates could lead to a further acceleration in the economy.

Business economists however, reports Anthony Robinson from Johannesburg, are not so sure. The main impetus to higher prices in recent months has been rand depreciation working through into higher import prices on fuels and other inputs.

Dr Gerhard De Kock, Governor of the Reserve Bank,

warned last week of higher inflation from this source in coming months, but said there was no inflationary pressure emanating from excess demand.

He ruled out fears that inflation might rise to between 20 and 30 per cent next year. Business economists however, fear that inflation could reach these levels in 1987 once the economy recovers from its present depressed levels.

Meanwhile, the favourable impact of rand depreciation and recession on the foreign trade account is reflected in the latest trade figures which show a

record R10.5bn surplus over the first ten months, compared with R2.7bn in the same period last year.

Preliminary figures from the customs and excise department show exports of R29.7bn and imports of R19.3bn.

The Government's failure to impose tough trade sanctions on South Africa is "a source of deep disappointment" to Christians there, a white South African church leader said in London yesterday, PA reports from London.

Dr Bevers Naude, 70, General Secretary of the South African

Council of Churches, said the recent mild sanctions by both President Reagan and the Commonwealth conference raised "serious doubts in our mind whether pronouncements expressing moral repugnance against apartheid were intended to be taken seriously."

Dr Naude, who was banned by the South African Government from 1977 to 1984 for his anti-apartheid views, said British churches as well as the government, needed to give much stronger support to end the violence or apartheid as soon as possible.

NEC to boost US output

By Carla Rapoport in Tokyo

NEC, one of Japan's leading electronics groups, yesterday outlined plans for a major expansion of its US production in a move aimed at easing the continuing trade friction between Japan and the US.

Mr Koji Kobayashi, NEC's chairman, gave details of the increase following his return from a visit to a new colour television plant in Georgia. He said NEC's goal is to have 50 per cent of its US sales produced domestically within two to three years. This will cover NEC's range of products from home appliances to telecommunications, and NEC executive said yesterday.

NEC currently exports around \$1.4bn (£970m) worth of goods to the US which accounts for about 70 per cent of its US sales. Mr Kobayashi said the new Georgia plant, for example, will double production capacity of colour television sets by next summer to 240,000 units a year.

He said the company expects to build a second plant by the end of next year to produce 48,000 units of specialty televisions. A third plant is planned for 1987 to produce 240,000 more colour television sets a year.

NEC also intends to increase its number of sales outlets in the US from 1,000 currently to about 5,000 by 1987. It is aiming to raise its market share in the US through increased domestic production. In colour televisions, NEC is aiming to command a 5 per cent share by 1988, compared to less than 1 per cent currently. In VTRs, it hopes to triple its share from 1 per cent to 3 per cent of the US market.

Japanese production of cars, trucks, and buses grew 17 per cent in October from a year earlier to a record 1.14m units, the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association announced yesterday, AP-DJ reports from Tokyo. The previous record of 1,106,290 units was recorded last July.

Seoul warns of crackdown on dissident students

By STEVEN E. RUTLER in Seoul

THE KOREAN Government yesterday issued its strongest warning yet that it would take swift action against growing violence by anti-government student activists.

The warning comes after the Government issued formal indictments against all 191 students who participated in Monday's seizure and burning of a training institute of the ruling Democratic Justice Party. Previous government practice has been to issue indictments only against leaders of student actions, while applying more lenient measures to other participants.

Mr Chung Suk-Mo, Minister of the Interior, whose ministry controls the national police force, said in a statement, "We can no longer tolerate this anti-social, anti-national violence. No matter what sacrifice it takes, we must without fail eradicate campus violence and disorder."

Mr Chung said that a series of recent illegal sit-ins and occupations of public buildings and foreign offices were reminiscent of the extreme tactics of the Japanese Red Army Faction, and that student violence was weakening national defence and promoting the interests of North Korea.

S. Korea plans ambitious job creation programme

By OUR SEOUL CORRESPONDENT

THE South Korean Government yesterday announced measures to spur job creation during the first half of 1986, in hopes of counteracting a sagging economy.

The measures mainly involve moving forward Won 1,300bn (£1,030m) of construction projects, including housing and railroads, that the Government says will create 90,000 jobs.

In addition the Government plans to add 6-7,000 jobs to the government payroll — 4,700 in education, and 2,800 in state-owned corporations.

The South Korean economy expanded by 5.4 per cent during the third quarter, bringing growth for the first three quarters of the year to 4 per cent. The pick-up in the third quarter, however, was mainly

due to a 14.7 per cent expansion in the agro-fisheries sector. Growth in manufacturing was just 3.3 per cent, continuing a sluggish trend caused mainly by stagnant exports.

A revised GNP growth target for the year of 5 per cent seems increasingly remote, since this would require growth of 7 per cent during the fourth quarter. The Government initially hoped to achieve a 7.5 per cent GNP growth rate for the whole year.

The Korea Development Institute, a government-supported research institute, recently warned that unemployment would be the critical problem facing South Korea next year. Government economists say that South Korea needs 7 per cent annual growth to keep unemployment from rising.

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Thatcher invites Ulster delegation

By John Hunt and Hugh Carnegie

MRS THATCHER has invited a representative delegation from the Northern Ireland Assembly at Downing Street next Tuesday in an effort to allay Protestant fears about the Anglo-Irish agreement.

She is also considering setting up new consultative machinery to keep the Ulster Unionists informed of the working of the inter-governmental conference with the Republic.

The invitation was given to Mr James Kilfedder, Speaker of the Assembly, who is Ulster Popular Unionist MP for North Down.

The Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionists, and Mr James Molyneux, leader of the official Unionists, are members of the assembly but it is not known if they will be in the delegation.

The Alliance party is also a member of the assembly but the Labour Party and Sinn Féin are boycotting it.

The assembly has passed a resolution condemning the agreement as "an intolerable derogation of British sovereignty" and Mr Kilfedder invited Mrs Thatcher to address it.

In a letter released last night she said she could not accept the invitation at the moment, but she invited the delegation to Downing Street.

In Belfast, Unionist leaders are counting on a massive turnout at a rally called to try to back their opposition to the agreement.

They have called for the biggest demonstration since the signing of the Ulster Covenant in 1921. Loyalist organisations have thrown their weight behind the rally and supporters will be bused in from all over the province.

The size of the rally will give some indication of the extent of grassroots Unionist opposition to the accord. The Orange Order expects around 100,000 people to jam the city centre to hear Mr Molyneux and Mr Paisley.

In Dublin, Dr Garrett Fitzgerald's Fine Gael-Labour coalition has been buoyed by the majority of 13 the agreement received in the Dail (lower House) on Thursday, one of the biggest majorities the government has won in three years.

Dr Fitzgerald will be looking to close the 15-point lead the opposition Fianna Fail party has held in recent opinion polls. There are predictions in Dublin that the staunch opposition of Fianna Fail leader, Mr Charles Haughey to the agreement could cost his party up to five points in the polls.

The Ulster Unionists renewed attempt to challenge the agreement will be made in the High Court on Monday.

Their application for leave to seek judicial review of aspects of the accord will be made to Mr Justice Taylor at an open court.

It follows the rejection by Mr Justice Mann on Thursday of the Unionists' initial documentary application.

BR passenger fares will rise by 8% in January

BY SUE CAMERON

BRITISH RAIL is to put up passenger fares by an average of more than 8 per cent in the New Year — more than the rate of inflation for this year which is expected to be about 6 per cent.

Price rises in London and the south-east and on British Rail's local and provincial services will average 7.5 per cent. But long distance season tickets and many standard tickets on InterCity will go up by around 10 per cent.

The higher fares, announced yesterday, follow the publication last week of BR's latest corporate plan which shows that its InterCity business is now expected to fall well short of the profit targets set for it by the government.

Two years ago InterCity was told to aim for a £66m profit by 1988/89 and to cut its grant from the taxpayer to £86m by 1986/87 in the interim. But last week BR admitted that InterCity was likely to make a £36m loss in 1988/89 and to have a grant requirement of £90m in 1986/87.

But the corporate plan did show that BR was on course to meet its overall target of reducing its call on the taxpayer by 25 per cent in the three years to 1986/87.

The latest round of fare increases, set to start on January 12, are designed to help BR cut its subsidy from the taxpayer as well as to boost the disappointing performance

of its InterCity sector.

But the price increases, which follow a series of fare rises this year, met with immediate criticism yesterday.

Mr Jimmy Knapp, general secretary of the National Union of Railmen, said Sir Robert Reid, chairman of British Rail, and the members of his board "should be dragged out of their comfortable ivory tower offices at Euston and forced to nannify ticket buyers for the next month to take the wrath of the customers at their miserable Christmas present."

BR said yesterday that the total yield from its fares increases would be less than the amount of money it was saving the taxpayers by cutting its grant.

Agreement on marketplace role

THE NATIONALISED industry chairmen who were meeting the Prime Minister for dinner last night had much in common. Groundwork over recent months, between their sponsoring government departments and the chairmen and their staffs, ensured that much in dispute had been resolved.

Further, the Government and chairmen agree they both want more market-orientated, independent corporations which, where they stay in the public domain, will be expected to behave like commercial companies.

Last year this could not have been said. The Treasury's proposals for reforming the statutory framework governing the relationship between state and industries had aroused the chairmen's ire. It was seen as a plan to put them all under tight Treasury control and to keep them there in a straight-jacket.

The ire was orchestrated well enough to force the Treasury to back off last autumn, to come back last December with revised proposals in a consultation document. This suggested new, more modest areas for reform, with the intention that this would be tied together into a bill for the present parliamentary session.

The reform envisaged was very much in the financial and accounting sectors: borrowing, report and accounts, and financial targets, with the appointment and dismissal of board members added for good measure.

John Lloyd on a meeting between state industry chiefs and the Prime Minister



Mr John MacGregor: no statutory framework

Much was uncontroversial. Recommendations for common reporting conventions and, for giving board members contracts which allowed both for instant dismissal and higher salaries were unlikely to attract much argument from the chairmen.

More tricky have been proposals on financial targets and financial restructuring. The proposals called for these targets to have the force of law and for the state industries' balance-sheets to be restructured so that all of its reserves were capitalised both as debt and public dividend capital.

This would end the convention whereby profitable industries "lent" money to the Exchequer through the mechanism of negative external financing limits.

The chairmen have been all for a more liberal framework, more for it, indeed, than the Government. Their particular concerns have been to define just who their masters are. It is not so simple, these days, as saying that it is self-evidently the Government.

It became clear as talks continued that the Government's statutory framework would be a loose one. Then, last week, Mr John MacGregor, the new Chief Secretary to the Treasury, announced that there would be no statutory framework at all. The privatisation programme, which has clear priority for the Government, had already squeezed the bill out of the 1985-86 session and now had squeezed it out of this parliamentary session.

Last night's dinner was unlikely to have decided anything in itself. It will lead to renewed talks between the chairmen and the Government until the differing statutory changes appropriate to each of them are agreed.

Ceiling removed on aid for coal conversion

By Maurice Samuelson

THE Government yesterday abolished the ceiling on the amount of money available to help industry switch to coal from other fuels.

Mr Peter Walker, Energy Secretary, said he had removed the £75m limit on public expenditure on total grants. The scheme, due to expire at the end of the year, would run at least to June 1987.

The move coincides with the first hard evidence that the National Coal Board is beginning to break even. It did so last month after depreciation but before interest charges — the first time since 1979.

Sneaking at a joint press conference at the board's headquarters with Mr MacGregor, NCB chairman, Mr Walker presented the extension of the grants scheme as part of his department's programme to improve Britain's energy efficiency. Welcoming the move, Mr MacGregor said it would help to expand the NCB's biggest potential growth market.

Both men viewed the scheme as part of the coal industry's recovery from the miners' strike. They said customers no longer appeared frightened that coal supplies would be disrupted by industrial action.

About 1,000 companies which considered converting to coal had pulled back during the strike, said Mr Walker. Mr Malcolm Edwards, the NCB's commercial director, said the board regarded these companies as "lost sheep" which had to be rounded up.

About £350m had been invested in coal-burning equipment since the launch of the grants scheme. Grants accounted for 587m, an investment which had resulted in more than 2.5m tonnes of new annual business for coal from the 380 projects already operating or under construction. An extra 1m tonnes a year would result from the 130 additional projects approved for grants.

Specialised conversions to coal in the manufacturing and processing sectors could add a further 3m-4m tonnes a year to the industrial market of about 5m tonnes.

The scheme, set up in 1981, provided grants of up to 25 per cent of the cost of converting to coal or replacing existing oil or gas-fired industrial equipment. In addition, companies can apply for soft loans from the European Coal and Steel Community.

Record price paid for a Constable

By Antony Thorncroft

A RECORD price for a Constable painting of £345,600 was paid yesterday by Leggatt Brothers, the London dealer, for a view of Hampstead, looking towards Harrow.

Christie's where the auction was held, sold the same picture in 1934 for 245 guineas.

A portrait of the actor David Garrick, attributed to Gainsborough, was unsold at £30,000 at the same auction. Adrienne Corri, the actress, wrote a book funded out to prove that Gainsborough painted the picture, which she discovered at the Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham. However, doubts about the artist's identity remain.

Overall, the auction of English pictures was a success, with receipts totalling £3m.

Eyes down for business as usual at Mecca Leisure

David Goodhart on the end of a 15-year link for an entertainment centres group

MECCA LEISURE has finally severed its 15-year link with Grand Metropolitan.

But the team of four senior managers who are heading the buy-out were yesterday not celebrating a liberation.

When Mr Michael Guthrie, the chairman and chief executive, was asked about his plans for the bingo halls to holiday camps group he said it would be "more or less business as usual."

That is perhaps not surprising as the successful restructuring of Mecca Leisure has been in the hands of the same four men since 1979.

The Mecca name was established by Mr Eric Morley and the Miss World competition and the group kept a strong independent identity after its incorporation into Grand Metropolitan in 1972.

By the time Mr Morley was forced to resign as chairman in 1978 the entertainment industry was becoming a more difficult place to make money. Further diversification was needed out of the traditional base in bingo halls and night clubs.

That has been achieved in the past few years. The group's 92 bingo halls now account for only about 50 per cent of profit and turnover. Bingo attendances

have been dropping fast (they were down 12 per cent last year) although the company maintains this is more than offset by the increase in the amount spent by players.

Most of the growth has been in the 63 entertainment centres including dance halls, night clubs, skating rinks, squash courts and snooker halls. There are 12 banqueting suites and several up-market restaurants and wine bars. Bingo and entertainments combined have received investment of £20m in the past two years.

Mr Guthrie is not unhappy with this package but he admits some changes would result from independence from Grand Metropolitan.

For example, divisional demarcations had blocked Mecca developments in bars and catering where possible competition with GrandMet's Holist or Berni Inns might arise.

Contract catering is an area he wants to see grow, but more important is the room for manoeuvre in the "new pub": pubs or wine bars, usually for younger people, which provide entertainment.

The other main area of change—already under way in some areas—is the better use of the bingo hall, now renamed the social club, signifying the wider provision planned. Mr Guthrie mused yesterday that there might be retailing opportunities in some of the bingo halls.

Mr Guthrie and his three partners stand to profit considerably from the buy-out. The £500,000 they are putting in will convert into £4m when the company is floated in a year to 18 months.

That might be described as a long service award. Apart from Mr Jeremy Long, the 32-year-old finance director, who joined Mecca in 1980, the others boast 65 years service to Mecca between them.

Mr Guthrie, 44, joined the company from Blackpool catering college in 1961—what perhaps explains his interest in "theme catering" in pubs. After moving up the catering ladder he became managing director of entertainment and then overall managing director in 1980 and chairman in 1981.

Management shake-up at stockbroking firm

BY JOHN MOORE, CITY CORRESPONDENT

HOARE GOVETT, the stockbroking firm which has forged a link with Security Pacific, the US bank, announced a big reorganisation of its management yesterday in preparation for the changes in the British securities market.

A seven-man executive committee is to be formed, headed by Mr Richard West, a senior director of Hoare Govett. Mr Anthony Greaves, who has been responsible for strategic planning at Hoare Govett for a year, is to take the post of deputy chief executive.

Mr Peter Jenks will be finance director and four newly created managing directors will have responsibility for the major operating areas of the group.

These four named yesterday are Mr Johnny Brooks, to head UK equities and trading; Mr Nigel Johnson-Hill, responsible for the international side; Mr Roger Livesey, for debt instruments; and Mr Bob Cowell, in charge of global research and key clients.

The move anticipates changes in the Stock Exchange rules likely in March 1988, allowing non-members of the exchange to sit on boards of member companies. Neither Mr Greaves nor Mr Cowell is a Stock Exchange member.

More delay in tin trading

BY ANDREW GOWERS

THE London Metal Exchange decided yesterday to keep its trading in tin suspended for another two weeks at least, as Mr Paul Leong, the Malaysian Primary Industries Minister, flew to London for talks on the tin crisis.

Mr Leong, who represents the world's largest tin producer, was on his way back to Malaysia from New York and was due to dine last night with Mr Peter Lal, his counterpart who is executive chairman of the International Tin Council.

The LME said it would keep tin trading suspended until he asked.

December 6 at the earliest, to allow the council's 22 member governments more time to discuss its debts and a possible rescue package by creditor banks.

In New York, Mr Leong expressed fresh doubts as to whether the International Tin Agreement, under which the ITC operates, could ever be resurrected.

"How can you restore the effectiveness of the ITA when there is already a huge surplus of tin overhanging the market?" he asked.

Unit trust chief named

BY GEORGE GRAHAM

GARTMORE, the fund management group, is completing its reconstruction with the appointment of a new head for its unit trust operations.

Mr Peter Pearson Lund, previously managing director of Henderson Unit Trust Management, will join Gartmore on Monday as managing director of Gartmore Fund Managers, which runs UK and offshore unit trusts totalling £450m.

Mr Pearson Lund will restore to Gartmore a marketing presence that has been missing since the abrupt resignation in

April of Mr Adrian Collins from his post as managing director of Gartmore Investment Management, the parent company.

GEM is in industry controlled by Exch International, a money broking group. Mr Collins's successor, Mr Paul Myers, moved to Gartmore from the institutional fund management division of N. M. Rothschild.

Mr Jeremy Edwards, chairman of Henderson Unit Trust Management, will resume the post of managing director which he vacated for Mr Pearson Lund last year.

Government makes £1bn debt issue

By Alexander Nicol

THE Government took advantage yesterday of a modest bounce in the gilt-edged market to announce a £1bn debt issue, including an innovative conversion option designed to make it more attractive to investors.

The 10 per cent Exchequer conversion stock due in 1989 is being sold to the public by tender at a minimum price of 98.5 per cent, giving a yield to maturity of 10.74 per cent.

Tenders are due at the Bank of England by the morning of November 11 with payment of £40 per £100 due on that day, and the remainder on January 13.

The announcement of a new issue was not a surprise to the market, since steady sales of "tap stocks" over recent weeks have considerably reduced the amount of paper that the Government Broker has available to sell.

There was some surprise that the Government should issue a short-dated stock. Some City analysts deduced that it must assume that there would be no near-term rise in interest rates, since this would make acceptance of a large short-dated issue difficult.

The authorities always insist that each issue is priced strictly according to current market levels, providing no signal about interest rate trends.

The gilts market welcomed the new conversion feature of the stock. Instead of being convertible into one specified longer-dated stock, as many previous issues have been, it provides the investor with a choice between a 10 per cent due in 1996 or a 9.5 per cent due 2006, or any combination of the two.

The options provided by the conversion feature are designed to add extra value for the investor, and to save the Government the small extra interest cost it would have to pay on a four-year issue.

The double option may be particularly attractive given a confused outlook for both medium and long-dated stocks at present.

Engineering orders rise 4%

By Lynton McLean

ORDERS in the engineering sector rose by 4 per cent in the three months to August compared with the previous three months.

In the same period rose by 2 per cent. The increase reflected improvements in home and export markets. Order books remained steady.

Mechanical engineering sales rose by 3 per cent, reflecting increased UK sales. Orders on hand rose 24 per cent, a rise in export orders more than offsetting a fall in home orders.

Net new orders rose by 16 per cent, described by the Department of Trade and Industry in its publication British Business as "erratic".

In the electrical and instrument engineering sector total sales rose by 1 per cent in the three months to August. This was a result of export sales rising by 9 per cent, while UK sales remained unchanged.

Order book volume and new orders at home and abroad fell by 2 per cent and 4 per cent respectively.

Orders in hand in the machine-tool industry rose by 74 per cent in the three months to August. This reflected growth in demand in home and export markets.

Sales of machine-tools fell by 24 per cent, with exports falling more sharply than home sales.

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Liquidations continue at high level

COMPANY liquidations continue to run at a high level, according to Trade and Industry Department statistics issued yesterday. Last month's seasonally adjusted average, including compulsory and creditors' voluntary liquidations, was 1,213. This is 9.5 per cent down from the year's high of 1,341 but still above last

year's annual average. October figures are traditionally inflated by the backlog of cases caused by the High Court summer recess, the department said.

Personal bankruptcies showed scarcely any change last month. The three-month average stood at 570. Six months ago the average was 549.

Andrew Gowers looks at the changing fortunes of the NFU under Sir Richard Butler

Farmers' union reaps a blighted harvest

SIR RICHARD BUTLER, who announced his intention to retire from the presidency of the National Farmers' Union this week, has not looked like a happy man for much of his seven years in the job.

And with good reason. He has presided over the union during a period of cuts in financial support from the EEC and the British Government, declining political influence, attacks from environmentalists and increasingly acrimonious bickering among members.

In the last couple of years, the fortunes of the NFU—traditionally regarded as one of Britain's most powerful lobby groups—have arguably reached their lowest ebb since the second world war.

There could scarcely be a starker contrast with the position in the 1970s, when British farming underwent its last big boom after the dramatic rise in agricultural prices in the wake of the country's accession to the EEC.

The mild-mannered and gentlemanly Sir Richard also stands in marked personal contrast to his predecessor, Sir Henry Plumb, the booming union spokesman who steered the union through the mid-1970s. The NFU represents 125,000 farmers in England and Wales—some 85 per cent of the total. Founded in 1908, its heyday came in the more than 30 years

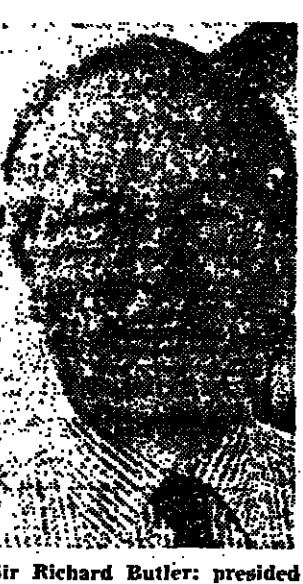
after the war, during which it enjoyed strong political support, a growing range of public subsidies and a uniquely cosy relationship with the Ministry of Agriculture. Of late, however, the landscape has changed beyond all recognition.

Financially, the EEC—its budget stretched to breaking-point by the voracious appetite of the Common Agricultural Policy—is being gradually forced to set limits on the subsidy payments it can provide to farmers.

The introduction last year of milk quotas, to the accompaniment of a chorus of protest from the farming community, was the most dramatic illustration of that. Many farmers now fear similar developments in other surplus-ridden sectors, notably cereals.

Just as important from the British farmers' point of view has been the reversal of attitudes towards them in Whitehall over the past few years.

In the past the Ministry of Agriculture often looked like a law unto itself, before EEC entry, it negotiated annual price reviews with the farmers—quietly to their considerable advantage. Yet since Mr Michael Jopling became Minister of Agriculture after the 1983 election, chill winds have been blowing.



Sir Richard Butler: presided during a period of cuts

ideological opponents of the CAP.

More fundamentally, the tide of political opinion in general has moved against farmers. There are good statistical grounds for this.

The agricultural workforce has been steadily declining for decades under the influence of increasing mechanisation. It now represents only about 2.6 per cent of the total labour force—a smaller proportion than in any other EEC country.

It has been estimated that the maximum total voting strength of British agriculture is only about 840,000 people, about 2 per cent of the electorate. Only about 10 political constituencies in Britain are now seen as "agricultural seats" where 15 per cent or more of total adult male employees are directly involved in farming.

At the same time, farmers have been under attack both from consumers and taxpayers, objecting to high prices under the CAP and the growing mountains of unwanted food as well as from the increasingly influential environmental lobby.

The issue of straw-burning, which came to a head in the public consciousness two years ago, was a clincher. As a result, farmers began to be seen as neither benevolent guardians of the countryside nor—given the

surpluses—vital purveyors of much-needed food.

Sir Richard himself, who has a reputation as a competent back-room politician, has shown signs of confusion in his approach.

In fact, he can take credit for quietly steering the union into a complete transformation of its own public attitude. The landmark was the publication in September of last year of a new policy document—The Way Forward. This acknowledged for the first time that agricultural expansion could not continue unchecked and that farmers should pay more heed to protecting the countryside.

Nonetheless, there has for some time been a feeling within the union that it needs to adopt a more assertive image and press for more radical solutions than it has hitherto been prepared to contemplate.

Sir Richard's likely successor, his present deputy, Mr Simon Courlay, may fit this mould rather better.

Mr Gourlay has already given a forecast of the future by swinging the union's support behind the idea of production quotas to curb the cereals surplus—a move which would have been unthinkable even a year ago.

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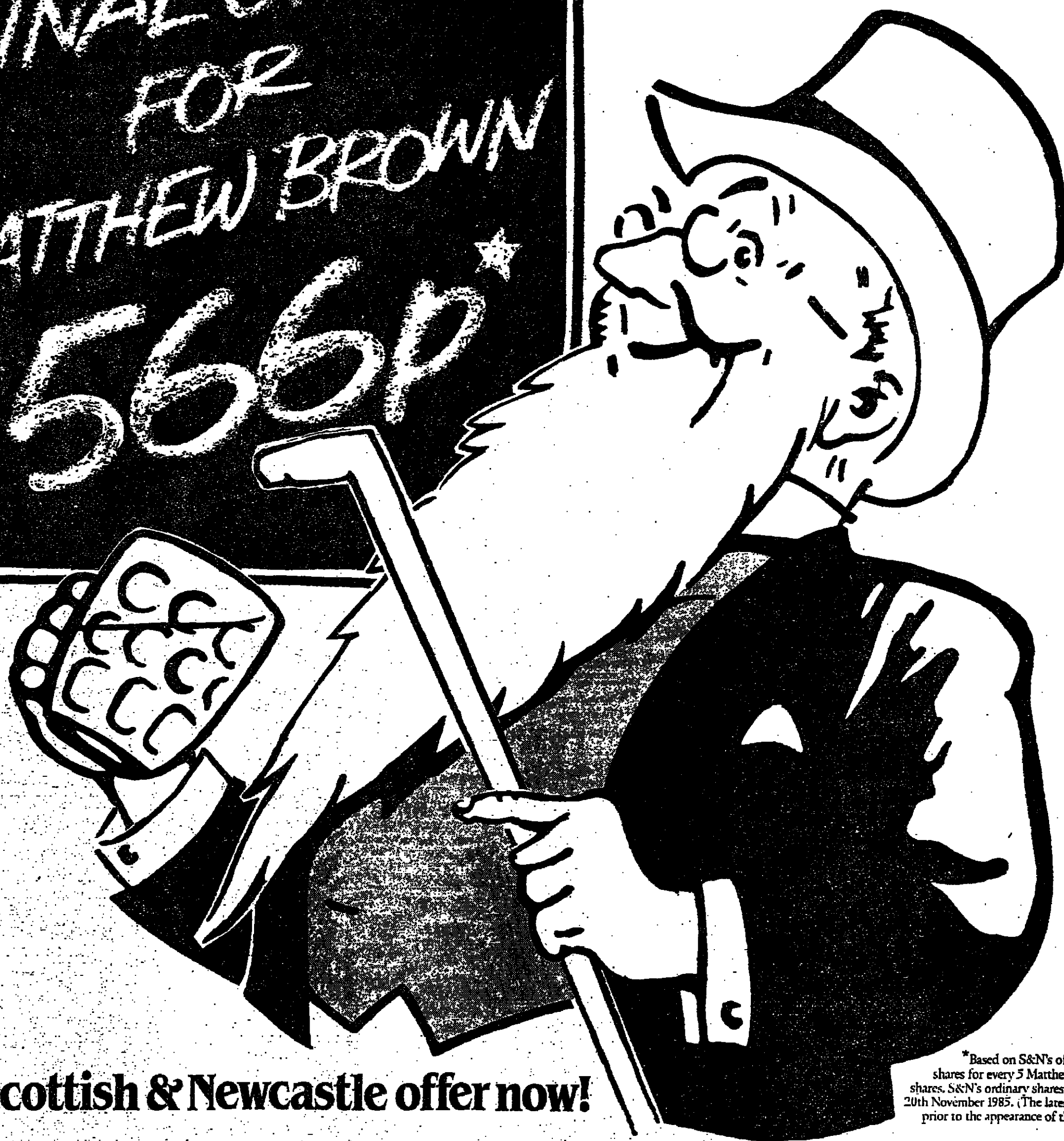
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Mistake to pull out of Unesco, Heath warns

BY IVOR OWEN

A DECISION by Britain to quit the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation would be a foreign policy error, Mr Edward Heath, the former Conservative Prime Minister, warned yesterday.

In a five-hour Commons debate he said such a decision would reflect the growth of "nasty, narrow-minded vandalism."

He said there could be no justification for deciding to act in the same way as the US which, as a reaction to its Vietnam defeat, was passing through a period of intense nationalism. It believed it "walks high and the rest of the world has to do what its commands," he said.

Mr Timothy Raison, Minister for Overseas Development, said a decision on withdrawal would be announced in the next month. He assured MPs that his views would be carefully considered.

The Government gave notice of its intention to withdraw from Unesco 12 months ago.

Powerful speeches in favour of retaining membership were made from all quarters of the House. Even Sir Peter Blaker, a former Conservative Foreign

Office Minister and a foremost critic of Unesco, suggested a compromise.

The notice of withdrawal should be suspended for a further period to maintain the momentum of reform which had already begun in the organisation, he said.

Mr George Foulkes, the chief Opposition spokesman in the debate, said the overwhelming view was against withdrawal. A decision to remain in Unesco would accord with the views of all the other members of the Commonwealth and by Britain's partners in the EEC.

Mr Raison did not dismiss Sir Peter Blaker's suggestion that the period of notice of withdrawal be extended but emphasised the practical difficulties involved in taking such a course. Continued membership would involve a contribution next year of £6.4m at the current sterling-dollar exchange rate.

Mr Raison brushed aside a suggestion by Mr Foulkes that the money if withdrawn, would probably be "clawed back" by the Treasury. He said he believed it would be retained within the British aid programme.

Pringle plans £6m knitwear expansion

By Mark Meredith, Scottish Correspondent

PRINGLE of Scotland yesterday said it planned to invest £6m to establish a knitwear factory in Arbroath, north-east of Dundee, and to expand its plant at Hawick in the Borders.

About 550 jobs could be created in Arbroath, where unemployment is above 18 per cent.

Pringle, part of Dawson International, has benefited from the improved market for knitwear, especially high-quality cashmere sweaters.

Mr Peter Hughes, its financial director, said in Glasgow that the company was setting up in Arbroath partly because of the pool of skilled labour in that part of Tayside.

Under a two-phase expansion for Arbroath, Pringle will move into the former Braemar knitwear plant which closed about 10 years ago. The first phase involves investment of about £1.6m with 150 jobs created by the end of next year. Mr Hughes said the company then planned to spend a further £5m in two phases to build a total labour force of about 550.

A bright short-term future for the textile industry in Scotland was forecast in a report issued this week by the Scottish Council, Development and Industry (SCDI), a lobbying group with members from public and private sectors.

The report said, however, that employment in textiles and clothes in Scotland was likely to fall in the medium to long term. Employment in the textile industry in Scotland fell by about 40 per cent between 1971 and 1981.

The jobs in this sector, today about 58,000, are almost as many as in the steel, coal and shipbuilding industries combined, or about 3 per cent of total employment in Scotland.

The report said producers would face greater competition from the expanded EEC and the relaxation of controls on imports from developing countries.

Speeding towards the age of the cross-Channel train trip

Andrew Taylor on the implications for French and UK rail systems of fixed link plans

THE ROLE of the British and French state-owned railways is becoming increasingly important in the run-up to the decision on whether to go ahead with plans to build a privately-financed fixed link across the Channel.

British Rail has already said it wants to spend up to £350m on track improvements, rolling stock and new station facilities if a rail crossing is built.

The two governments expect to announce by the end of January which of four groups bidding to construct a fixed link (all involve rail tunnels) will proceed. It seems almost inconceivable that the project will be abandoned and none of the schemes chosen.

The French, in particular, view the railways' role in the venture as crucial. Construction of a fixed link would mean that plans to extend the high-speed rail network, based on the TGV train (train à grande vitesse), from Paris to Brussels will almost certainly go ahead.

A fixed link would also raise BR's profile, linking the national rail network directly to the Continent where trains are more widely used to transport freight.

The groups bidding to construct the link have been pursuing BR and SNCF in the hope of negotiating deals on tariffs and traffic levels.

However, there are differences in approach between the state-owned railways. SNCF is concerned about a fixed link's capacity to cope with an expansion in rail traffic. It would prefer a rail tunnel carrying BR and SNCF trains only.

BR believes it could share the crossing with a privately-operated rail shuttle which would ferry lorries, cars and

coaches under the Channel. It appears to favour such a scheme proposed by Channel Tunnel Expressway, which wants the railways to guarantee a minimum level of traffic for the crossing. BR says the requests flout government guidelines that there must be no state financial guarantees to prop up the venture.

However, EuroRoute and Channel Expressway face other problems in convincing the railways about their commitment to a rail link. Both are proposing road schemes as well as a rail crossing.

EuroRoute originally proposed that its road scheme (an ambitious combination of bridges and artificial islands connected mid-Channel by a 21km road tunnel) should open 18 months earlier than the rail tunnel. Channel Expressway planned to run trains on rails embedded in one of two lanes of a twin bore motorway tunnel.

Both these proposals are still on the table but alternative versions have been proposed by EuroRoute and Channel Expressway in a bid to overcome some of the railways' reservations.

In EuroRoute's case this will involve a rail tunnel being completed at the same time as the first stage, single track working only. Channel Expressway has now offered a twin-bore rail tunnel as well as its motorway tunnel.

A problem these two schemes face is whether the rail element will generate sufficient income to justify its investment when it will be competing for passengers and freight with a road scheme running alongside. Hence the desire of the promoters to obtain minimum guarantees on rail usage.

Less is known about the position of the fourth scheme, a road bridge with a separate rail tunnel, proposed by EuroRoute. The group claims it will generate sufficient traffic on the road bridge to give the tunnel free to BR and SNCF. However, it has had great problems establishing its credibility with financiers and government officials.

The stakes are high. In addition to the four groups' plans BR has prepared its own shopping list of investment to support a fixed link.

This includes £50m for a new London terminal at the northern end of Waterloo station to include customs, immigration and other frontier facilities. About £10m to £15m will be spent improving Ashford station in Kent planned as an interchange for passengers travelling to the Continent but coming from areas outside London.

All investments will have to show a net rate of return of 7 per cent before the Government will proceed but a fixed link will have to be chosen first.

New chairman at Centre-File

Mr Gordon Reeve has been appointed chairman of CENTRE-FILE, computer services subsidiary of National Westminster Bank, succeeding Mr Cyril Townsend, on his retirement on November 30. Mr Reeve, who retired on October 31 as general manager of NatWest's management services division, has also been appointed a director of the bank's outer London regional board from December 1.

Mr John Maguire has been appointed production director of BELSTAFF INTERNATIONAL, a subsidiary of the James Halstead Group.

With the initial launch of the Series 38 mainframe computers completed, Mr David Dace, director, mainframe systems, ICL, is taking on a new international assignment to identify opportunities for successful collaborations. His successor as director, mainframe systems, is Mr John Gardner, Mr Dace continues on the board of STC International Computers and other subsidiary companies. Mr Gardner was previously responsible for the overall business and marketing strategy within mainframe systems. He will join the board of STC International Computers.

Mr Henry Fenton has been appointed to the MOTHERCARE UK board as import/export director. He joined Mothercare in 1983 as import development executive.

The ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND GROUP has made the following appointments from December 1. Mr Peter E. G. Balfour, a vice chairman of The Royal Bank of Scotland Group, to be chairman of the Charter-

house Group; Mr M. Victor Blank to be chief executive of the Charterhouse Group and chairman and chief executive of Charterhouse Japhet. Mr Blank has also been invited to join the boards of The Royal Bank of Scotland Group and its principal operating subsidiary, The Royal Bank of Scotland, from the same date.

CENTRAL INDEPENDENT TELEVISION has appointed Sir Richard Bailey as chairman of its West Midlands regional board. Sir Patrick Nairne becomes deputy chairman. Sir Richard succeeds Mr David Jostham, who became chairman of Central following the retirement of Sir Gordon Hobday at the end of this year. Sir Richard, who is currently deputy chairman of the West Midlands board, is chairman of Central's main board. He will join Central's main board. The appointments take effect from January 1.

Mr A. Michael Humphish has been appointed to the main board of NORTHERN ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES as managing director overseas group, replacing Mr J. T. Inghis who has left the company to pursue other business interests. Mr Humphish has been managing director of NEI Thompson, Wolverhampton, since November 1980. Before that he was purchasing director of Cotes Cranes in Sunderland (1974-1980).

Mr Peter Stephens has been appointed public affairs director of TESCO STORES from January 1. He succeeds Mr Charles Lewis who is leaving Tesco on January 1 to take up the post of head of public and investor relations of RIZ.

ECONOMIC DIARY

MONDAY: CBI monthly trends inquiry (November). Balance of payments current account and overseas trade figures (October). EEC Foreign Affairs Council meets in Brussels (until November 28). EEC inter-governmental conference in Brussels. GATT contracting parties meet in Geneva (until November 28).

TUESDAY: EEC Budget Council meets in Brussels. Supreme Soviet in session (until November 27). Start of two-day Commons debate on Anglo-Irish agreement. US durable goods (October).

WEDNESDAY: Detailed analysis of employment, unemployment, earnings prices and other indicators. Dr Helmut Kohl, West German Chancellor, to visit London. Nordic finance ministers meet in Copenhagen. US merchandise trade (October). MEPC results. Unigate results.

THURSDAY: Overseas travel and tourism (September). Energy trends (September). New vehicle registrations (October). EEC Environment Council meets in Brussels. Royal Bank of Scotland results. FRIDAY: Company liquidity survey (third quarter). Finished steel consumption and stock changes (third quarter, provisional).

Insurance group attacks sales force licensing plan

BY ERIC SHORT

AN ATTACK on the proposed system for licensing life assurance and unit trust salesmen has been made by one of Britain's largest insurance groups.

Mr Arthur Duval, chief general manager of the Co-operative Insurance Society, writing in the Post Magazine & Insurance Monitor, described the proposed central registry of licence holders, with its blacklist of offenders, as a bureaucratic nonsense and quite unnecessary.

The investor protection proposals envisage that any organisation marketing life assurance and unit trusts — life companies, unit trust groups or insurance intermediaries would have to be authorised before being allowed to trade.

This authorisation would include compliance with minimum training standards, operating under a code of business rules and the organisation taking responsibility for its sales force.

The Marketing of Investments Board organising committee, the body set up to handle the marketing of investments — mainly life assurance and unit trusts — last August suggested a system of individual licensing of life assurance and unit trust salesmen.

Mr Duval claimed that authorisation in itself if properly monitored would provide the necessary investor protection.

The report said, however, that employment in textiles and clothes in Scotland was likely to fall in the medium to long term. Employment in the textile industry in Scotland fell by about 40 per cent between 1971 and 1981.

The jobs in this sector, today about 58,000, are almost as many as in the steel, coal and shipbuilding industries combined, or about 3 per cent of total employment in Scotland.

The report said producers would face greater competition from the expanded EEC and the relaxation of controls on imports from developing countries.

BBC evidence on advertising disputed

BY RAYMOND SNOODY

A DISPUTE has started over the evidence being assembled for the Peacock committee, assessing funding options to the licence fee for the BBC. The row follows the corporation's claim this week that leading companies would not increase their advertising spending substantially if they could advertise on the BBC.

The BBC's evidence, a survey by Industrial Facts and Forecasts, suggested advertising budgets would rise by no more than an average 5 per cent even

if the cost of television advertising were to drop by 30 per cent.

However, the Incorporated Society of British Advertisers, which represents principal advertisers, has now condemned the survey. The society said it was based on a false and misleading question.

Mr Kenneth Miles, the society's director, said leading industrialists were asked whether their advertising spending would rise, fall or stay the same if the cost of television

advertising were to drop by 30 per cent.

He said: "Not only was this a totally hypothetical question but it was made worse by the fact that respondents were told that the ISBA had forecast such a drop. This is totally untrue and ISBA has received an apology from those responsible for the research."

The society believes advertising on the BBC would bring a substantial rise in total advertising spending on television, a view advanced in its evidence to the committee.

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	Rec. date	% gain as at 4.11.85	
1983			
Read Executive	5.81	+309	
Antelagants Riby	5.13	+355	
Fastest Investments	3.25	+340	
Griffin	6.51	+245 (17)	
De Goo	6.51	+247	
Cope Altmann	12.83	+246 (16)	
Low & Bonar	9.62	+216	
Delta	5.62	+213	
High Point Services	12.83	+207 (18)	
Vickers	7.57	+196	
Booker McConnell	3.85	+190 (25)	
Bridon	6.53	+186 (22)	
Lucas Ind.	11.23	+156	
Aero Nardies	12.23	+153 (21)	
Westerholme Bank	10.63	+150 (16)	
1984			
A & P Appleton	10.84	+302	
Macrogen	1.84	+201 (17)	
Carpas Int.	12.84	+191 (14)	
Consolidated (C&F)	10.84	+177	
Busch Telecom	11.84	+157 (3)	
Australian Con Mins	2.84	+147	
Sage Arrow	3.84	+140	
Wright Collins	2.84	+125	
Home Charm	3.84	+125 (19)	
Comcap	5.84	+119 (10)	
1985			
First Nat. Finance	1.85	+128	
Alexandra Winebar	7.85	+105	
Walker & Homer	7.85	+105	
Arson, British Ports	1.85	+92 (9)	
British Benzol Carbonising	3.85	+91	

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UK NEWS-LABOUR

Return to work order by steel union attacked

BY HELEN HAGUE, LABOUR STAFF

SHEFFIELD steelworkers, on strike for six weeks at Sheffield Forgemasters, have been instructed to return to work by their union executive on terms which concede the company's proposals to abolish centralised shop stewards committee. The company said yesterday that dismissal notices would be issued shortly to employees who remained on strike—though no timetable for implementing this strategy was given.

The Iron and Steel Trades Confederation's executive issued the back to work instruction after an exchange of telexes between the union and Forgemasters' management.

Striking ISTC members condemned it as a "sell out" by their union. Mr Ron Ward, the union's shop steward at the plant, resigned his post yesterday as he felt he could not issue the back to work instruction.

The ISTC strikers' deep disquiet with the instruction prompted a resolution calling for their union to release them from membership so that they could join other unions which would "better represent the interests of private sector steelworkers."

However, the ISTC workers plan to go back to work on Tuesday, if the union instruction is not lifted. This would significantly weaken the strike, and strike leaders acknowledge that such a return could lead to a speedy end to the stoppage. There was some confusion

Mirror shutdown nearer

PREPARATIONS BEGAN

yesterday over the telex sent by Mr Roy Evans, ISTC general secretary, to Mr Philip Wright, managing director of Forgemasters.

Mr Evans said that other unions—including the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, the majority union at the site—had assented to the form of words, and would be recommending acceptance to members.

However, Mr Derek Simpson, the AUEW's district secretary in Sheffield, said no recommendation in favour of the instruction from his union's executive had been received, and that the strike was still official.

The ISTC return to work formula concedes that the long established practice of having a central shop stewards committee, to negotiate for all workers at the site will go.

Forgemasters has recently restructured its business into 10 operating subsidiaries—each with responsibility for its own industrial relations.

Mr Ken Long, the local Transport and General Workers union official responsible for Forgemasters, said that any decision to call off the strike would be taken by the members involved, not by a national level instruction.

A further mass meeting of all strikers has been called for Monday morning, after full time-local union officials have met.

NUM moves against new union

BY JOHN LLOYD, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

LEADERS OF the National Union of Mineworkers in the Midlands area have formed a "federated board" to fight the influence of the Union of Democratic Mineworkers.

The leaders—from Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, South Derbyshire, the Power Group, Warwickshire and the white collar section Cosa—held their first meeting on Thursday night. The grouping was revealed by Mr Trevor Bell, the Cosa general secretary, following a meeting of his general council in Derby yesterday.

Mr Bell made a series of allegations about the National Coal Board's bias towards the UDM, and the fact that the

tactics of the two sides are "linked." The creation of the board, however, is an indication of the concern felt by leaders in that area over the continuing advance of the UDM, and their tacit recognition that Mr Arthur Scargill, the NUM president, has had little or no effect on stopping the defections to the new union.

Mr Bell said that the new board would raise the issues thrown up by the UDM through Labour MPs in the Commons. He said the pay offer to the UDM destroyed the former principle of basic wages keeping up with the cost of living, and loaded most of the increase onto productivity improve-

ments.

A legal move which could threaten the establishment of the UDM was launched in the High Court last night. Mr Justice Warner ordered an urgent hearing of an application by the former president of the South Derbyshire NUM for a court order requiring the disclosure of detailed voting figures in last month's ballot which approved the area's amalgamation with the break-away union.

Mr Kevin Richards is making the application to obtain evidence of irregularities in the ballot as the basis for a formal complaint. The case is likely to be heard on December 2.

Joseph hint on teachers' pay inquiry

BY DAVID BRINDLE, LABOUR STAFF

SPECULATION grew yesterday that the Government is deliberately keeping open the option of an inquiry into teachers' pay and conditions of service.

This followed the sending of a letter from Sir Keith Joseph, Education Secretary, to Mr Giles Radice, the Labour Party's education spokesman, in which he said he was giving "detailed

consideration" to Mr Radice's proposal for an inquiry.

Sir Keith had told Mr Radice in the Commons on Tuesday that it was not up to the Government to produce an initiative in the teachers' dispute and that "a review on pay only" was the last thing that would be contemplated.

The letter gave rise to speculation that ministers are considering offering an inquiry if there is no breakthrough in the dispute in England and Wales when the unions next meet. A meeting was fixed yesterday for December 5—three days after the college lecturers' union, Naffes, loses its vote on the union panel.

Railworkers end Swindon closure fight

BY DAVID BRINDLE, LABOUR STAFF

WORKERS at the Swindon workshops of British Rail Engineering (Brel) have voted to end opposition to their planned shutdown and closure.

A ballot declared yesterday showed 707 to 591 in favour of giving union negotiators a free hand and lifting remaining sanctions.

Mr Graham Humphries, works committee chairman, said: "We just cannot bury our heads in the sand. But the size of the vote against shows there is still a lot of bad feeling."

Closure of the historic Swindon workshops, which employ 2,300, was announced in May.

local Thamesdown Borough Council, have been boycotting talks with Brel on the rundown and alternative employment measures. However, other Brel workshops have not supported the anti-closure fight.

Under present redundancy terms a 30-year-old worker with 14 years' experience is likely to be given about £7,400

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The Investment Trust Table

The figures in the columns below are based on information supplied by the companies named, which are members of The Association of Investment Trust Companies. The figures are unaudited.

as at close of business on Monday 18th November 1985												as at 31st October 1985												as at close of business on Monday 18th November 1985												as at 31st October 1985												Total Return on N.A.V. over 5 years to 31.10.85 (12)	
Total Assets (£ million)	INVESTMENT POLICY (2)	Management (3)	Share Price (4) pence	Yield (5) %	Net Asset Value (6) pence	UK (7) %	Nth. Amer. (8) %	Japan (9) %	Other (10) %	Gearing Factor (11) base=100	Total Return on N.A.V. over 5 years to 31.10.85 (12)	Total Assets (£ million)	INVESTMENT POLICY (2)	Management (3)	Share Price (4) pence	Yield (5) %	Net Asset Value (6) pence	UK (7) %	Nth. Amer. (8) %	Japan (9) %	Other (10) %	Gearing Factor (11) base=100	Total Return on N.A.V. over 5 years to 31.10.85 (12)	Total Assets (£ million)	INVESTMENT POLICY (2)	Management (3)	Share Price (4) pence	Yield (5) %	Net Asset Value (6) pence	UK (7) %	Nth. Amer. (8) %	Japan (9) %	Other (10) %	Gearing Factor (11) base=100	Total Return on N.A.V. over 5 years to 31.10.85 (12)														
429	CAPITAL & INCOME GROWTH	Independently managed	683	3.9	553	43	43	8	6	89	271	38	Comm. & Energy (cont.)	Ivory & Sims	63	2.7	93	51	49	-	-	98	94	429	Comm. & Energy (cont.)	Ivory & Sims	63	2.7	93	51	49	-	-	98	94														
106	Alliance Trust	Touche, Remnant	100	3.5	123	41	36	11	12	108	269	14	Viking Resources	Edinburgh Fund Mgmt.	522	6.0	602	47	29	55	15	24	89	132	106	Viking Resources	Edinburgh Fund Mgmt.	522	6.0	602	47	29	55	15	24	89													
241	Bankers	John Gove	179	2.9	235	61	28	13	19	109	232	26	Winterbottom Energy	Baillie, Gifford	88	1.1	104	10	55	15	24	71	144	241	Winterbottom Energy	Baillie, Gifford	88	1.1	104	10	55	15	24	71	144														
88	Bankers & Southern	Kleinwort Benson	82	3.8	105	49	29	4	15	96	241	10	Technology	Baillie, Gifford	70	1.7	91	54	42	1	3	53	+	88	Technology	Baillie, Gifford	70	1.7	91	54	42	1	3	53	+														
132	Charter Trust & Agency	Schroder Inv. Man.	655	4.4	764	68	30	2	5	98	232	71	Fleming Technology	Robert Fleming	142	2.3	178	45	33	18	4	94	210	132	Fleming Technology	Robert Fleming	142	2.3	178	45	33	18	4	94	210														
534	Continental & Industrial	Dunedin Fund Managers	120	3.9	155	59	21	9	11	104	243	283	Independent	Ivory & Sims	286	0.3	307	37	60	-	3	99	+	534	Independent	Ivory & Sims	286	0.3	307	37	60	-	3	99	+														
599	Edinburgh Investment (w)	Foreign & Colonial	69	2.9	91	39	31	15	15	107	284	283	TR Technology	Touche, Remnant	88	2.8	123	43	39	14	4	101	222	599	TR Technology	Touche, Remnant	88	2.8	123	43	39	14	4	101	222														
785	Globe	Electra House Group	303	4.8	397	66	31	6	4	103	247	289	INCOME GROWTH	Ivory & Sims	221	4.9	277	55	42	-	3	103	253	785	INCOME GROWTH	Ivory & Sims	221	4.9	277	55	42	-	3	103	253														
292	Philip Hill	Kleinwort Benson	262	5.3	302	75	23	4	2	92	229	180	British Assets	MIM	516	4.0	570	70	19	8	3	94	+	292	British Assets	MIM	516	4.0	570	70	19	8	3	94	+														
41	Jos Holdings	Warburg Inv. Man.	135	3.8	183	79	11	3	7	100	263	115	Drayton Premier	Dunedin Fund Managers	290	4.4	362	81	11	7	1	99	272	41	Drayton Premier	Dunedin Fund Managers	290	4.4	362	81	11	7	1	99	272														
314	Keystone	Gartmore	410	3.5	521	58	18	11	13	110	240	69	First Scottish American	Philip Hill	286	5.0	325	69	28	-	3	89	254	314	First Scottish American	Philip Hill	286	5.0	325	69	28	-	3	89	254														
494	Meldrum	Gartmore	170	2.0	195	68	26	4	7	101	219	61	General Consolidated A	Henderson	114	3.5	111	89	5	-	6	102	409	494	General Consolidated A	Henderson	114	3.5	111	89	5	-	6	102	409														
104	Outwith	Baring Brothers	147	3.0	191	64	12	14	10	100	230	135	Lowland	Kleinwort Benson	106	5.1	131	57	25	7	11	91	231	104	Lowland	Kleinwort Benson	106	5.1	131	57	25	7	11	91	231														
120	Raborn	River & Mersey Inv. Man.	360	3.9	437	58	30	7	5	94	230	137	Merchants	Murray Johnstone	154	5.8	153	77	11	12	8	97	306	120	Merchants	Murray Johnstone	154	5.8	153	77	11	12	8	97	306														
35	River & Mersey	Touche, Remnant	146	5.4	174	63	34	9	4	96	245	139	Murray International	Murray Johnstone	142	4.5	174	67	26	9	8	97	289	35	Murray International	Murray Johnstone	142	4.5	174	67	26	9	8	97	289														
19	River Plate & General (w) A	Touche, Remnant	240	4.5	271	79	11	-	-	97	207	155	Securities Trust of Scotland	Martin Currie	140	4.9	172	58	25	11	6	107	260	19	Securities Trust of Scotland	Martin Currie	140	4.9	172	58	25	11	6	107	260														
38	S. & P. Ret. of Assets (w) A	Save & Prosper Group	99	1.1	144	81	19	-	-	154	+	40	SMALLER COMPANIES	MIM	137	3.6	165	63	24	8	5	108	+	38	SMALLER COMPANIES	MIM	137	3.6	165	63	24	8	5	108	+														
389	Scottish Mortgage	Baillie, Gifford	401	2.7	508	90	23	18	10	101	286	59	English & International (w)	Foreign & Colonial	57	2.8	113	50	28	14	8	105	223	389	English & International (w)	Foreign & Colonial	57	2.8	113	50	28	14	8	105	223														
243	Scottish National	Gartmore (Scotland)	252	2.7	203	57	25	10	8	96	225	13	Family	Kleinwort Benson	240	4.3	300	97	2	-	1	97	254	243	Family	Kleinwort Benson	240	4.3	300	97	2	-	1	97	254														
108	Second Alliance	Independently managed	568	4.1	734	41	44	8	7	92	270	18	Ivory & Sims	Robert Fleming	107	3.3	141	74	23	3	-	90	225	108	Ivory & Sims	Robert Fleming	107	3.3	141	74	23	3	-	90	225														
451	TR Industrial & General	Touche, Remnant	139	3.4	210	48	23	19	10	102	220	20	General Stockholders	John Gove	145	2.5	164	52	46	1	1	100	167	451	General Stockholders	John Gove	145	2.5	164	52	46	1	1	100	167														
407	Wilson (w)	Henderson	187	2.4	212	61	23	10	6	105	264	27	Gartmore (Scotland)	Gartmore (Scotland)	123	2.5	138	51	34	4	11	85	211	407	Gartmore (Scotland)	Gartmore (Scotland)	123	2.5	138	51	34	4	11	85	211														
124	United Kingdom	Hambros Bank	246	4.2	285	89	1	-	-	95	241	28	Investors in Industry	Philip Hill	325	5.0	362	93	2	-	5	93	205	124	Investors in Industry	Philip Hill	325	5.0	362	93	2	-	5	93	205														
38	City of Oxford	Robert Fleming	285	4.3	276	100	-	-	-	99	257	18	North British Canadian	Martin Currie	118	3.4	150	58	26	13	3	93	250	38	North British Canadian	Martin Currie	118	3.4	150	58	26	13	3	93	250														
63	Fleming Claverhouse	Share (w)	311	8.9	312	84	13	2	1	99	261	18	Scottish American	Stewart, Ivory	217	3.0	337	46	33	11	8	92	224	63	Scottish American	Stewart, Ivory	217	3.0	337	46	33	11	8	92	224														
123	TR City of London	Touche, Remnant	101	5.5	121	91	8	-	-	101	260	18	Smaller Companies Int.	Edinburgh Fund Mgmt.	150	3.6	196	67	26	6	1	110	223	123	Smaller Companies Int.	Edinburgh Fund Mgmt.	150	3.6	196	67	26	6	1	110	223														
98	Temple Bar	Guinness Mahon Inv. Man.	139	5.1	170	95	2	-	-	93	278	62	TR Trustees Corp.	Touche, Remnant	88	2.8	123	43	39	14	4	101	222	98	TR Trustees Corp.	Touche, Remnant	88	2.8	123	43	39	14	4	101	222														
212	CAPITAL GROWTH	General	286	2.8	375	46	35	15	3	103	+	189	Special Features	J. Rothschild	100	2.6	120	47	25	16	12	91	+	212	Special Features	J. Rothschild	100	2.6	120	47	25	16	12	91	+														
55	Anglo-American Securities	Morgan Grenfell	137	3.1	167	64	23	9	5	95	214	193	Consolidated Venture (w)	MIM	109	1.2	122	80	5	3	91	+	55	Consolidated Venture (w)	MIM	109	1.2	122	80	5	3	91	+																
169	Ashdown	Schroder Inv. Man.	137	3.1	167	64	23	9	5	95	214	193	Drayton Consolidated	Edinburgh Fund Mgmt.	327	4.4	407	71	21	5	3	91	+	169	Drayton Consolidated	Edinburgh Fund Mgmt.	327	4.4	407	71	21	5	3	91	+														
27	Electric & General	Henderson	300	1.7	367	52	32	10	6	99	257	62	Edinburgh Financial (w)	Robert Fleming	288	4.2	362	99	1	-	-	98	272	27	Edinburgh Financial (w)	Robert Fleming	288	4.2	362	99	1	-	-	98	272														
67	Greenfriar & General	Henderson	270	0.8	279	63	15	10	12	112	319	62	Fleming Enterprise	Robert Fleming	131	3.3	164	55	27	8	10	99	226	67	Fleming Enterprise	Robert Fleming	131	3.3	164	55	27	8	10	99	226														
74	International	GT Management	167	0.9	200	50	23	8	19	106	255	141	TR Global Recovery A	GT Management	130	2.2	154	73	17	-	10	115	+	74	TR Global Recovery A	GT Management	130	2.2	154	73	17	-	10	115	+														
112	English & New York	Kleinwort Benson	110	3.2	138	10	46	14	30	101	233	20	Murray Ventures (w)	Murray Johnstone	308	7.0	388	7	10	6	13	20	262	112	Murray Ventures (w)	Murray Johnstone	308	7.0	388	7	10	6	13	20	262														
79	English & Scottish	Gartmore	77	2.4	95	46	16	13	25	90	224	254	Nineteen Twenty-Eight A	Stewart, Ivory	170	2.9	213	95	5	-	5	95	219	79	Nineteen Twenty-Eight A	Stewart, Ivory	170	2.9	213	95	5	-	5	95	219														
19	F & C Eurotrust	Foreign & Colonial	167	1.5	163	5	-	-	95	93	260	19	Stewart Enterprise (w)	TR Property	151	3.4	192	68	18	4	10	101	209	19	Stewart Enterprise (w)	TR Property	151	3.4	192	68	18	4	10	101	209														
201	Fleming Overseas	Robert Fleming	112	3.5	148	6	53	-	26	100	227	23	Altitude	Gartmore	533	0.1	627	96	2	-	-	93	275	201	Altitude	Gartmore	533	0.1	627	96	2	-	-	93	275														
257	Fleming Universal	Robert Fleming	123	3.3	398	15	61	14	20	100	227	2	Child Health	Thornton & Co.	295	-	348	54	8	17	21	116	241	257	Child Health	Thornton & Co.	295	-	348	54	8	17	21	116	241														
257	Group Investors (w)	Gartmore	49	3.2	62	58	41	3	4	118	197	38	City & Commercial	MIM	648	-	848	55	8	6	1	113	256	257	City & Commercial	MIM	648	-	848	55	8	6	1	113	256														
129	Hambros (w)	Hambros Bank	236	2.6	294	32	41	3	4	94	266	33	Dualvest	MIM	1207	-	1410	99	8	1	-	106	+	129	Dualvest	MIM	1207	-	1410	99	8	1	-	106	+														
180	Independently managed	Hambros Bank	170	3.6	212	54	35	5	6	108	210	30	Fundinvest	MIM	325	-	419	86	6	7	1	107	+	180	Fundinvest	MIM	325	-	419	86	6	7	1	107	+														
17	London & Gartmore	Independently managed	253	2.1	253	36	36	17	11	100	211	2	Marine Adventure	Thornton & Co.	175	-	222	49	8	19	24	125	+	17	Marine Adventure	Thornton & Co.	175	-	222	49	8	19	24	125	+														
10	Mid Wynd International	Gartmore	211	1.4	311	44	53	9	21	97	211	360	New Throes (1983) (w)	Thornton & Co.	35	-	117	100	-	-	-	152	+	10	New Throes (1983) (w)	Thornton & Co.	35	-	117	100	-	-	-	152	+														
184	Munkle	Baillie, Gifford	153	2.0	182	32	34	16	28	97	245	34	S.																																				

Saturday November 23 1985

The future of manufacturing

WHATEVER ONE'S views about the appropriate policy response, it is hard to dissent from the argument set out in this week's National Institute Economic Review: "Any future which holds out the hope of rising prosperity for the economy as a whole and a move back to full employment must include a reversal in the decline of manufacturing industry." The National Institute accepts that there is nothing especially virtuous about manufacturing as opposed to services and in any case the statistical definitions of these two activities are becoming increasingly blurred. But the authors of the review are surely right to emphasise the need for "a technically sophisticated high productivity sector competing successfully in world markets."

There are some branches of British industry which already meet this test and have done so over many years: pharmaceuticals is an obvious case. Moreover, the upheaval of the past few years have had the effect of cutting out a great deal of uncompetitive capacity and of sharpening up the quality of management.

The need to survive forced companies to take a ruthlessly critical look at their methods and their activities, concentrating on those areas where they could achieve and sustain an internationally competitive and profitable position. There is a very long way to go both in the reform of working practices on the shop floor and in the performance of management generally. But the progress will not be maintained without the stimulus of competition. It may be that in Britain rivalry between companies in the same industry sometimes takes a more gentlemanly, even collusive form than, say, in the US or Japan. Thus it is all the more important for the Government to develop a stronger competition policy and to fight vigorously for free trade within the European Community.

'Nowt for nowt'

On wage increases, for example, which were one of the main topics for discussion at the Conference of British Industry's conference earlier this week, changes in management behavior are more likely to be brought about by external pressure than by conference resolutions. The principle of "nowt for nowt" which was strongly urged by the CBI's director general, is being put into practice, or at least attempted, by Ford UK. Under a two-year pay offer put to the unions this week, additional pay rises above a basic 3 per cent increase will be paid only in return for radical changes in working practices. It is no coincidence that Ford faces fierce competition throughout Europe not only from the five other EEC leaders but also from a Japanese

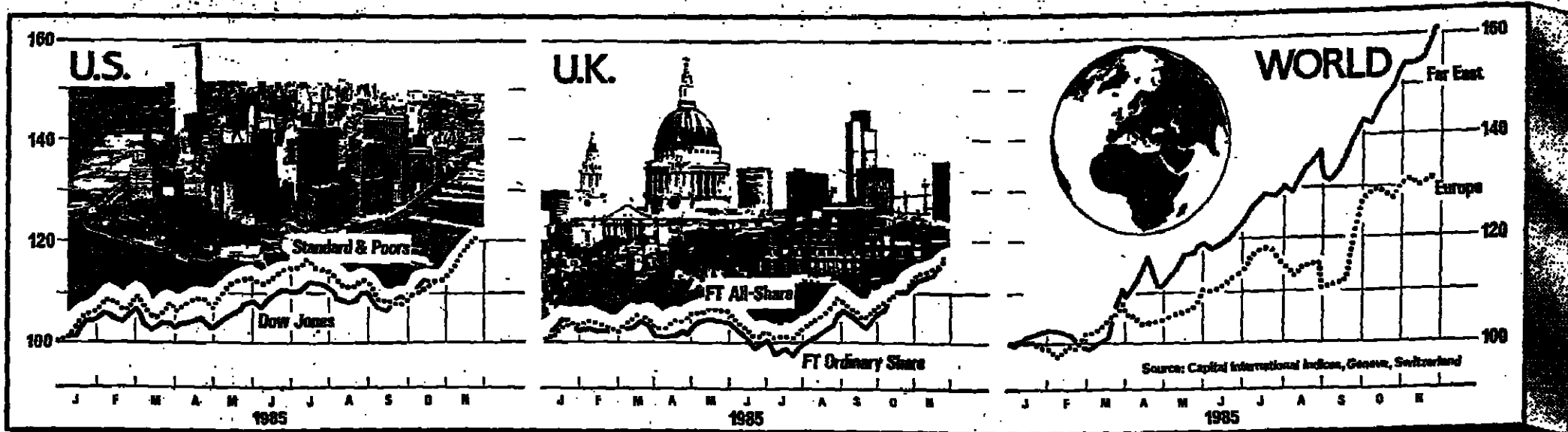
industry which has a clear advantage in manufacturing costs. Some of the most striking recent advances in manufacturing efficiency have been achieved by foreign-owned, especially Japanese, firms and the National Institute is right to favour an inflow of capital leading to more foreign participation in the ownership and management of British industry. "If foreign firms can demonstrate that production in Britain can be competitive in international markets, that in itself will do much to dispel the defeatism that has afflicted much of industry in recent years." There is, of course, a big difference between the marginal branch factories set up by some foreign companies and the real commitment to the UK shown by firms like IBM. But given the appropriate degree of commitment, foreign-owned companies can make a valuable contribution to upgrading the quality of management and enlarging the pool of skilled manpower.

Training

Industry has to put its own house in order and not look to government for solutions to its problems. But there is one field in which a partnership between government and industry is essential, and that is training. Deficiencies in the quality of skilled manpower, from senior manager through foreman to shopfloor operator, are probably the single most important cause of low British productivity. The National Institute suggests a major public initiative in training and retraining, comparable in scale to the Youth Training Scheme.

Yet the most important contribution the Government can make towards the revival of manufacturing industry is through fostering a climate in which entrepreneurial activity will flourish. Few would deny that the climate is far more favourable than it was six years ago. This is reflected in, among other things, the creation of more small businesses and in the continuing vogue for management buy-outs, whereby large corporations spin off unwanted subsidiaries to their managers. Both categories have been well served by new sources of finance in the City. The question now is whether the managers who have come through the last few years, and the new entrepreneurs who have established themselves, can raise their sights above the short-term pressure to survive and build large, internationally competitive enterprises. This requires not only stable Government policies and free access to markets in Europe and elsewhere, but also a lifting of spirits among businessmen, replacing the defeatism to which the National Institute referred with a long-term vision of what can be achieved in world markets.

AS WORLD STOCK MARKETS TOUCH NEW PEAKS



Branco Redovic

Wall Street whistles to Mr Volcker's tune

By Terry Dodsworth and Paul Taylor in New York

NEW YORK'S plush Plaza Hotel has rarely played a central role in world financial affairs. But in a steamy, overcrowded conference room on a Sunday afternoon in September it housed a meeting that decisively changed the direction of the US capital markets.

Two days earlier, on September 20, the Dow Jones industrial average had dipped below the 1,300 mark, first overtaken only four months before. Long-term interest rates had reversed direction and were on an upward trek, and the US dollar was still riding high at over DM 2.80. The markets were fretting about the possibility of a recession, the decline of US competitiveness and the looming prospect of growing protectionism.

The message delivered from the Plaza was a simple one. US Treasury Secretary, Mr James Baker, and his four counterparts from the leading Western nations had come to an agreement to act together and try and push the dollar lower to keep the US economy rolling forward.

Wall Street reaction was virtually instantaneous. By the time Europe awoke the next day, many of the leading US investment houses already had their trading strategies in place. They reasoned that the effort to drive down the dollar implied a steep US interest rate rise at the very least. The lofty figure of Paul Volcker, the

Fed chairman, standing by the side of Mr Baker, underpinned this view.

"The basis of the rally in the last eight weeks has to be laid at the doorstep of Mr Volcker and his colleagues," says Mr Steve Elinhor, Goldman Sachs portfolio strategist. "Never has a Fed chairman been so explicit in signalling investors not to worry about rising interest rates nor the threat of recession."

When Wall Street closed 24-hours later, the Dow Jones industrial average was more than 18 points up on the day at 1,316.31. Since then, it has risen a further 120 points, smashing a series of records on the way. This week the index stood at about double its low point in the recession trough of 1982, having jumped up through the 1,400 level in an enthusiastic trading burst on Thursday. Interest rates in this period have not changed very much at the short end where the Fed

exerts its influence through day-to-day intervention in the money markets. But the difference in market sentiment is crystal clear in the behaviour of longer-term yields.

Encouraged by repeated hints from Mr Volcker—that the Fed will remain "accommodative," that the recent rapid growth in M1, the basic money supply measure, is not of over-riding importance, and that inflation remains under control—investors have found the confidence to move into longer-dated paper.

This mood has been helped by active consideration of deficit reduction and an eventual balanced budget on Capitol Hill. As a result, the yield on the 30-year Treasury long bond has fallen below 10 per cent this week for the first time in five years.

Two other factors are underpinning equity strength as well.

The first is a feeling that a controlled slide in the dollar can only be good for American industry, battered in the last four years by extremely competitive overseas markets. In the last nine weeks, dollar-sensitive stocks, like pharmaceuticals, have led the rally.

Wall Street generally sees real GNP growth this year coming in around the 3 per cent level, and is looking for real growth of between 4 and 5 per cent in 1986. On the corporate earnings front, several Wall Street firms are predicting profit gains of up to 15 per cent next year, after a decline in the current 12 months of around 5 per cent.

Yet whatever the signs of current confidence, the stock market is not caught up in a frenzy of runaway bullish enthusiasm. In sharp contrast to some of the earlier rallies

in the present cycle, the overall mood of the market is strangely muted. Salomon Brothers, for example, is advising clients to sell into strength.

One significant pointer to this caution is that private investors are very largely staying out of the market. Volume on the New York stock exchange, although reasonably healthy, has not shot through the roof. In October it averaged 110m shares a day but institutions were accounting for a significantly higher proportion of this activity as block trading jumped by 30 per cent.

There is unease about the speculative element in current stock market ratings. Partly because of the constant whirl of the Wall Street rumour mill at present, several of the blue chip stocks in the Dow industrial average are today carrying potential bid premiums.

The effect of this has been

to magnify the underlying strength of the market—the broader NYSE composite index has only gained 8.9 per cent over the last nine weeks against an 11 per cent gain in the narrower Dow industrial average. In addition the blue chip index has been buoyed up by the continued withdrawal of equity due to the unprecedented wave of mega-mergers and share buybacks.

Analysts who peer at the charts rather than the oeyom charts rather than the economy have another reason to be concerned. The US stock market rally is already a geriatric at 39-months old, against an average in the last five recoveries of 31.4 months and the longest of 43.5 months back in the mid-1960s.

"We don't think we will make it much beyond the first quarter before we see a pronounced fall-back," says Mr Hans Schueren, a technical analyst at Merrill Lynch. Mr Elinhor at Goldman Sachs also believes there is a danger the rally is topping out. But he argues that the Fed will continue to try and put a floor under any downturn.

"Mr Volcker has no choice. The world is in rather a precarious situation," he says. "When you work out how outstanding in the developing countries, look at the farm credit system and the leverage in the US private sector—all of these things say the US economy has to keep growing. He is scared to death."

LONDON: 'NOBODY WANTS TO BE FIRST OFF THE MERRY-GO-ROUND'

HAS THE approach of Big Bang engulfed the London stock market in a wave of speculation? Or is its bullish mood explained by the fact that, as one stockbroker observed with tongue in cheek, "the closer Halley's comet approaches the earth, the higher does the market rise?"

These are two of the more entertaining theories being advanced for an apparently inexorable autumn surge in UK share prices.

The itch for equities, stirred by takeover speculation but spurred more fundamentally by economic growth and falling inflation, is not just being felt in Britain and the US. West German, French, Swiss, Italian, Dutch, Belgian, Austrian and Spanish share prices have all been setting records. London's rally is testing the superstitions of the commentators and breaking new ground for virtually every available

index. The FT Ordinary Index of 30 blue chips breezed past the 1100 mark on Wednesday and reached 1135.4 yesterday, 25 per cent above the year's low of 911 reached in July. The All-Share Index of 739 shares reached 699.64, 27 per cent above its level of a year ago.

Almost every sector of the equity market has reaped the full benefit, with only a few casualties, such as electronics, falling to approach record levels.

Following the typical pattern of a raging bull market, UK investors have ignored factors which could at other times have dampened sentiment: realisation that short-term interest rates have little if any room to fall in 1986; surprisingly poor results from Beecham, the pharmaceuticals group, and the ousting of its chairman; the Government's adoption of economic policies seen in the City

as risky; and over-dependence on the market values of oil and the pound.

So what has driven them on? One factor may be increased foreign activity in the run up to the Big Bang city restructuring, but the real answer to the London stock market's current strength lies with the UK fund managers who control the billions of pounds invested in pension funds and insurance companies.

Their existing investments have been producing a high, though not exceptional, flow of cash. In recent months, there have been remarkably few new avenues for it: the Government has reduced its debt sales, there have been no privatisations or other large flotations and few companies have dared to issue new shares since Hanson Trust surprised the market with a less than successful £519m rights issue in June.

Rather than keeping the

inflowing money on deposit or spreading it among a range of investments such as property, increasingly performance-minded portfolio managers have been ploughing it back into shares. They do not want their end-of-year figures to reveal that they have missed out on a lucrative stock market move.

This creates a buying spiral: the more the market goes up, the more you want to buy. "Nobody wants to be the first to jump off the merry-go-round," says Mr Nicholas Knight, equity strategist at stockbroker James Capel.

The feverish mood has been heightened by an unprecedented wave of takeover speculation. With the £1.8bn contested bid by Elders IXL for Allied-Lyons, Britain's biggest ever bid, now under way, the stock market has realised that virtually any company could be a target.

On a more fundamental level,

lower inflation, with the expectation of further declines, has attracted buyers of shares and other financial assets, since their returns are less likely to be eroded and are better than traditional inflation refuges such as gold. In addition, the prospects are for consumer-led economic growth fuelling continued growth in corporate profits and dividends.

West German and other European stocks have been made more appealing to outside investors by the dramatic slide of the dollar since leading industrialised countries decided in September to take steps to reduce its value. It has not escaped the more internationally-minded US fund managers that virtually every foreign market has outperformed Wall Street this year in dollar terms—though Japan, after performing strongly earlier in the year, now looks less attractive.

Where will the London rally

end? Industrial share prices are at 14 times their average earnings per share. The rally has reduced the dividend yield on the All-Share Index to 4.2 per cent, not far above the 3.5 per cent return currently available on index-linked Government stocks. So there are strong arguments that the market is already fully valued.

Many brokers are cautiously recommending their clients to take some profits and allow cash to accumulate rather than being poured into shares. Next year the Government's £44bn year privatisation programme will remove some of the institutions' embarrassment of cash.

A "consolidation" seems inevitable at some stage. But when such a market momentum has developed, Halley's Comet probably provides as good a guide as any about when it will subside.

Alexander Nicol

FOR SEVERAL days this week, the 3,200-strong world press corps that flocked to Geneva for the superpower summit was less interested in Star Wars than "briefing wars."

As the two leading actors in the Geneva drama disappeared behind the scenes, the spotlight turned to the front men who had to try to explain what was going on.

Mr Larry Speakes, the chirpy but pugnacious White House spokesman, brushed aside suggestions that he was engaged in lower level superpower competition with Mr Leonid Zamyatin, his Soviet rival. The US had not come to Geneva to score public relations points, he said. Ha ha.

Although the character of their briefings was utterly different, at times the two men sounded almost the same. They also revealed the same controlled but bossy intolerance towards unwelcome questions. But while Mr Speakes had to cope with a White House press corps which needs to know what the President had for breakfast and what sort of underwear he was wearing, Mr Zamyatin's problem was slightly different. Nobody at a Soviet briefing asked if Mr Gorbachev was wearing long johns.

Instead, he had to face unsubtle and aggressive questions about Afghanistan and human rights. One woman harried him on why, as a simple Swiss tourist, she had been hassled in the Soviet Union by the KGB when the only weapon she was carrying was her smile. A surprisingly tolerant Mr Zamyatin dismissed her by replying that he could not understand how such a charming smile could have failed to draw a warm response in his country.

Mr Zamyatin is a curious exponent of the more open Soviet attitude to the media in evidence since Mr Mikhail Gorbachev became Soviet leader.

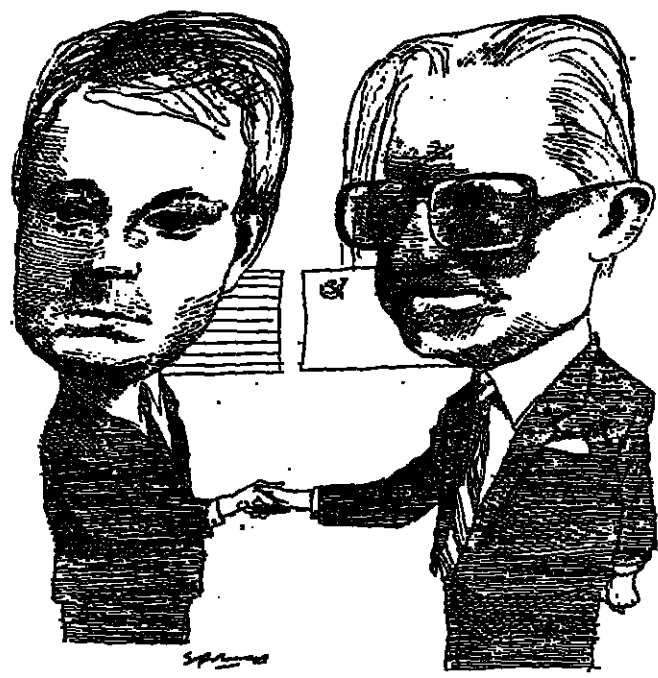
As head of the Communist Party's International Information Division since 1978, the 63-year-old Mr Zamyatin had already been chief spokesman for three General Secretaries

Larry Speakes and Leonid Zamyatin

Propaganda meets public relations in the briefings war

By Reginald Dale and Patrick Cockburn

Men in the News



before Mr Gorbachev. And as a former head of the Soviet News agency Tass, he has dealt with the press since the days of Mr Nikita Khrushchev in the 1950s. At the beginning of this year there were rumours in Moscow that Mr Zamyatin was to become an ambassador and his department reorganised, but nothing came of it. Instead, he has played a central role in the three month long Soviet diplomatic offensive which preceded the summit, starting with the Time magazine interview with Mr Gorbachev at the start of September. Mr Zamyatin was firmly in place beside the new leader at the green baize table in the Kremlin.

When Mr Gorbachev went to Paris, Mr Zamyatin was with him. At times choleric under hostile questioning he never wholly lost his temper and clearly benefited from the success of the General Secretary's

first official foreign visit. At Geneva Mr Zamyatin's performance was more relaxed.

The new approach is important for the way in which the world views the Soviet Union, but an equally radical change is occurring in the way the Soviet Union looks at itself. Impromptu press conferences broadcast live by Soviet television and continual briefings on Soviet policy have suddenly made Mr Zamyatin's job one of the most important in the Soviet Union.

Mr Speakes had to accept that he was not quite such a heavyweight in his own camp. Mr Zamyatin was an official member of the top level Soviet delegation.

But even when Mr Speakes was defending the "news blackout," which it seems clear that the Americans asked for, he left no doubt that he had been personally briefed by his Presi-

dent about the goings on that he could not reveal.

Mr Speakes has grown in stature since he was tragically catapulted into prominence in the spring of 1981. His predecessor, Mr James Brady, was one of the casualties of the assassination attempt on Mr Reagan. Although he is still officially Deputy Press Secretary to the injured Mr Brady, the young looking, 46-year-old Mr Speakes has flourished in his real role as Mr Reagan's principal spokesman.

His performances today are much more confident than when he first struggled to correct Presidential "mis-statements" four years ago. He has developed a style of banter which infuriates some of his captive White House clientele, but still allows him to win most of the barbed exchanges that he seems to regard as an integral part of his job.

It is a careful balancing act. Less important members of the White House press corps know that they need good relations with Mr Speakes. The more important (essentially the American TV networks and the major news agencies) know that Mr Speakes ultimately needs them more than they need him. Without television, Mr Reagan would arguably not be President of the US.

The travelling White House press, 240 of whom flew to Geneva on a chartered PanAm Boeing 747, recreates itself like a microscopic amoeba whenever it leaves its cramped quarters in the west wing of the presidential mansion. The same pecking order is reproduced whether the President is in Strasbourg or South Korea. Mr Speakes gives the floor to the people he knows, and does not hide his disdain for foreigners.

Mr Speakes, who has a light deep southern accent, started a newspaper career in 1961 as editor and then managing editor of papers in Mississippi with such exotic names as the Oxford Eagle and the Bolivar Commercial. His newspapers, according to his official White House biography, won "top awards" for six straight years.

He worked for Presidents Nixon and Ford and then had a spell in public relations before signing on with Mr Reagan. If and when he leaves the White House, he is expected to be able to take his pick of plum jobs, unlike some of his predecessors who have been reduced to a humble status in Washington public relations.

In Geneva this week, public relations—or propaganda, as Moscow would call it—has been the centre of the new superpower relationship. Both sides seemed to accept that it was almost as important as the actual content of the two leaders' private talks.

In the "affability wars" that they conducted from their rival press centres—half-a-mile apart on a Geneva hill—these two unlikely exponents of conciliation were the visible faces of what is now intended to be a more friendly superpower dialogue.

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Pineapple falters — but the dance goes on

By Arthur Sandles

THE SPECTACLE of the elegant Ms Debbie Moore attempting to extricate herself from her tango with commercial reality is being watched with more than passing interest by her rivals, present and potential. Ms Moore's face, and figure, behind a host of dance studios, the vital city statistics of which this week failed to draw applause: pre-tax losses of £214,000 for the year ended July 31.

At first glance this fall from corporate grace might be expected to provoke a flurry of depression among punters who have long held that the health boom was going to provide investors with a safe haven. In the event, however, there is ample evidence that there is yet another industry waiting for the entrepreneurs to make their mistakes before stepping in.

"They'll just watch until people start getting the formula right, and then they will move in," says Mr Roger Brind, managing director of Flames Health Clubs.

It could be argued that Flames is one of the doing the moving in. It is on the declared course of opening five or six health clubs a year for the rest of the decade. With former Royal Marines physical training instructor Brind at the helm, the company is part of Nashar Trading, which is owned by Mr Mahmoud Nashar. Flames now has five clubs having started from scratch 18 months ago. The original intention was to start new clubs, but so many clubs are now getting into difficulties that Flames is able to collect the windfalls.

The indications are that despite the aerobics business problems, the health kick is alive and well. Retailers like Marks and Spencer and Tesco are increasingly pitching at the

health-conscious food buyer: Guinness has bought Champneys Health Hydro and this week Cranks health food restaurant; trainers continue to be the constant footwear of the like Work Gut and Here's Health proliferate on the newsstands.

All this is supportive evidence for such companies as First Leisure. Lord Delfont's highly successful assemblage of operations aimed at the discretionary spending power of Britain's youth, another USA quoted company, Miss World, and Ladbrooke.

Ladbrooke now has seven clubs operating under its Lanton Leisure umbrella (it has a 75 per cent stake) and has hit upon the somewhat piquant mixture of snooker, gymnasium, exercise studios and Jazzercise.

So what are the pitfalls? Well, for one thing the emphasis in this fashion-conscious business has changed from dance to exercise. Also says Mr Brind of Flames there has been lack of expertise, both managerial and financial. "You had people who thought they could run a club in their spare time. You can't. They did not realise the skills needed or the level of running overheads, staff, lighting and air conditioning, are colossal and it takes time for the business to build up."

This is a view endorsed by analysts Leisure Consultants. It blames "poor management and low teaching standards."

opposite the Victoria and Albert Museum). This palace, however, against the £4.5m which Glen Eagles Hotels, now also, via Bells, part of Guinness, has spent on the creation of the Glen Eagles health club and spa at the New Piccadilly Hotel in the heart of London. A more conventional spend would be between £300,000 and £500,000.

reliant on Foster's Lager. Nothing can be done to reinvesting heavily in technology and brand support. Its total marketing budget this year is £945m against £937m last year, including a new £1m promotion of the Melbourne Cup horse race. Mr Bond is probably outspending CUB at present, and is in any case the holder of the hottest of all sports sponsorship properties, the America's Cup, which he hopes to defend in early 1987 in the waters off Perth.

CUB claims to have adapted well in a sluggish home market; to have developed national branding strategies, and to be a bold exporter. "Elders has given CUB a chance to manage," says Mr Bruce Siney, CUB's executive marketing director. "Our decision-making is far more rapid. Elders is especially skilled in terms of

According to Caroline Petel, Leisure Consultants: "Customers are becoming much more discriminating and knowledgeable. As a result, more clubs are having to be more professional." At the same time, and this may have particular pertinence to the Pineapple problems, "people are turning away from aerobics classes to body conditioning, stretching and gymnasium work. There is now a wider view of health and exercise in which diet, nutrition and exercise are all involved."

There are probably a little over 1,000 health clubs in the UK, although accurate figures are difficult to establish if only because no one has really done a wide range of aerobics, seeking a niche between the pure slimming market

and Weight Watchers clubs and the more serious rivalry of the many highly sophisticated, and frequently profitable, local authority leisure centres.

Where the clubs hope to score over the local authority operations is the sense of intimacy and friendliness—the lack of which in some clubs is often given as a reason for their failure. "The clubs charge annual membership fees, some as low as £5 but sometimes £1,000 or more, and then work hard to keep those members loyal. You must not allow those members to become disenchanted," says Palmer of Flames.

At the top end of the market the membership is coddled with libraries and luxury restaurants (at Glen Eagles) and even a special light (no added sugar) champagne (at Aquila).

There are not many locations that have the cachement areas to justify £1,000-plus membership fees or the facilities that go with them—which usually means a large swimming pool and an extensive beauty treatment centre.

The majority of clubs should aim essentially to gain their customers from a wider range of social classes... for most clubs the cost of yearly membership should be below £100 at 1985 prices. For this price members should be able to use the gymnasium whenever they want," says Caroline Petel.

Once again, the stress is on exercise with a more traditional ring about it than dance or aerobics. "In the past many of these places were dance studios that also had a gymnasium," says Palmer. "Now they are health centres and gyms that also offer dance."

A cue, perhaps, for the flexible Ms Moore to learn some new steps.

Elders through the Allied looking glass

By Michael Thompson-Ngel in Melbourne

NO ONE ever kicked sand in John Elliott's face. As chairman and chief executive of Elders-LXL, the rapacious Melbourne-based conglomerate, Mr Elliott personifies the Aussie businessman to such a degree that the pugilistic lexicon is swiftly exhausted.

He is chunky and barrel-chested, with the cool look of a big-rigger contender who knows he can handle a lot more punishment over 15 rounds than he is likely to receive.

As the mastermind behind Elders' £1.8bn bid for Britain's Allied Lyons food and drinks group—easily the biggest seen in Britain or Australia—Mr Elliott was briefly in Melbourne this week, before returning to London.

He was grey-faced and gravel-voiced, but clearly relishing every jab and counter-jab of the Allied fracas. He exists, it seems, on virtually no sleep. When the cameras are on him he clutches a can of the golden gargoyle—Foster's Lager, made by Carlton and United Breweries (CUB). Elders' main cash pump—away from the limelight—switches to fist-fisted tumbler of Scotch. Unlike a real boxer he chain-smokes Marlboro.

In Melbourne Mr Elliott is the prize protégé of the Collins Street establishment that dominates business in Australia. In their eyes he can do virtually no wrong, so that the quantum leap that the Allied bid entails has prompted almost no serious questioning.

Yet the bid raises several crucial issues over and above

those already aired in London, which have concentrated on the scale and complexity of the leveraged deal. Elders is proposing, and the ownership structure of the exotic bidding vehicle Elders has wheeled forth.

From a less hidebound perspective, the big questions are these: Is Elders, despite pretensions, an old-fashioned asset-stripper? Can Elders grow businesses, or does it snatch them off the barrow? How good is Elders' record and four-core operations? Does it badly need to pluck a rabbit from the hat? Does Elders have the skills to transform Allied's "mixed" drinks brands, let alone deliver the "imaginative leadership, innovative management and strong strategic direction" that it promises so badly? Is CUB a one-brand brewer or a marketing heavyweight? If Allied's details have been as sick as Elders has portrayed them, can Elders breathe life back into them? Is Elders in danger of ignoring home markets for the sake of foreign adventures?

The best way to tackle those questions is to study Elders' main charges against Allied, and swivel them back on Elders, to see how it performs.

In this week's offer document, Elders' charges against Allied can be paraphrased under three main headings: unsatisfactory earnings; poor marketing; and poor leadership and lack of strategic direction.

Without a doubt, John Elliott has come a long way fast. In a nutshell, he has leveraged his

start as a McKinsey consultant into a brewing, pastoral, trading, and financial empire that in 1984-85 saw net profits up 50 per cent at A\$106.6m (£51m) on revenues of A\$780m against net profits of A\$34.4m on revenues of A\$25.5bn five years ago.

He made his first move, in November 1972, after scouring the field for companies with three attributes he viewed as the sine qua non of takeover candidates: poor management, high asset level, and turnaround potential. The prize was Henry Jones (IXL), a fading

jam-maker, which cost him and his backers A\$23.3m. He assembled a youthful management team, cultivated their loyalty, delegated authority generously, and paid them well. He keeps strategy to himself and to a narrow circle of advisers, but gives his managers a fair length of rope.

Elders is not an asset-stripper, said Mr Elliott this week, emphasising that although he routinely acquires and disposes of surplus assets, his aim has always been to bolster his core businesses. Apart from brewing, these include an extensive pastoral network (wool broking to livestock selling to rural financing); international trading; and finance, including merchant banking and financial services.

Over the 18 months to June 1985, Elders cut total debt from A\$1.75bn to A\$773m. Indeed, the main contributor to profits growth in 1985-86 (unless Allied suddenly rolls on its back) will be its much lower interest bill. Elders' net interest bill for 1985-86 should fall by around A\$50m.

Now in some ways, this dramatises earlier scepticism over the quality of Elders' earnings, for its core businesses (except finance) are in non-glamorous areas of a lumpen economy. Despite a current dash for growth, Australia is still heavily reliant on bulk

commodity exports, and its terms of trade are languishing. On this line of reasoning, Elders needs good foreign assets quickly—a rabbit from the hat. Yet it says it still brings growth from existing businesses.

After earnings, Elders' second main charge against Allied concerns the British group's alleged failure to succour its brands or handle its marketing properly.

Does Elders have the credentials to make this claim? The answer is ambiguous. For a start, the A\$5bn Australian beer market is now a duopoly in which CUB claims a current 49 per cent of sales against 42 per cent for Alan Bond's Swan-Castlemaine operation.

Second, CUB is heavily

reliant on Foster's Lager. Nothing can be done to reinvesting heavily in technology and brand support. Its total marketing budget this year is £945m against £937m last year, including a new £1m promotion of the Melbourne Cup horse race. Mr Bond is probably outspending CUB at present, and is in any case the holder of the hottest of all sports sponsorship properties, the America's Cup, which he hopes to defend in early 1987 in the waters off Perth.

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John Elliott: the cool look of the big-rigger contender

Encourage high earnings

From the Managing Director, Alexander McKillop

Sir—In Harrogate, Sir Terence Beckett (November 19) postulated the concept of no more unearned annual pay increases. Absolutely right. Especially at a time of diminishing inflation—but why, oh why, so negative?

Surely as managers we should not only encourage high earnings but create conditions where they are genuinely possible, and not give the impression that we want to hold down salaries and wages just for the hell of it.

Even in the incomes policies and pay freezes of the last 25 years, extra rewards for improved productivity and promotion were not precluded. Why, as managers, can't we put to good use some of the schemes we all know and use, bonus and added value schemes, job evaluation, commission, profit sharing, share ownership, etc?

Some top companies pay high levels of remuneration with little or no variable element (including the much abused and misunderstood element of overtime). They really involve their staff in the affairs of the enterprise and achieve results by vigorous and enlightened management.

When it comes to promotion, some will say this is only for the few—but need this be so if we really set out to appraise our people and encourage them to progress? We could widen opportunities if not by immediate promotion, then by training in alternative skills.

We all, especially the CBI, know these principles and practices so well. We know the companies where they are successful. Let us now, as managers, generate the interest and understanding of all our people, show them the way ahead, show them how earnings can be genuinely increased, and demonstrate how life for employees can be vastly improved by greater productivity, greater individual challenge and the greater development of their inherent skills and talent.

David A. Peters, 9 North Warren, Aldeburgh, Suffolk.

Stepping stones in the arts

From the Managing Director, London Symphony Orchestra

Sir—I just want to put the record straight on one point in Anthony Thorncroft's otherwise excellent article on arts sponsorship which appeared on November 16.

Far from doing "little or nothing," Shell UK is in fact by far the LSO's largest single sponsor, funding major projects in two of the most important areas of the orchestra's work, namely education and regional

Letters to the Editor

Next year, we will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Shell LSO music scholarship and the Shell LSO national tour.

The scholarship has not only provided stepping stones into the profession for some of the most talented young musicians in the country, but it has also enabled the majority of the entrants to benefit enormously from the workshops and master classes that the LSO principals have given around the country as part of the selection process.

The Shell LSO national tour has enabled the orchestra to play in many of the main regional capitals in the UK, programmes prepared for London, with top international artists. Without Shell's support no regional hall would have been able to afford these concerts.

We in the LSO feel that Shell's sponsorship has been one of the most successful and valuable contributions to be found anywhere in the arts.

Clive Gillinson, Barbican, EC2.

The Scots and the world

From Mr P. Mitchell

Sir—The interruption to the TSB sale of shares is of no benefit to the Scottish TSB, nor to its depositors. As a life-long depositor in the TSB no correspondence has ever reached me asking my opinion as to whether shares in the bank should be floated or not, and the vast majority of Scottish depositors have not been consulted, consequently the Scottish campaign to stop the sale of shares in the TSB seems to be ill-founded.

There have been many statements in the Press showing that the interviewee has not done his homework. The statement that the jewel in the crown is the Scottish TSB has no foundation surely, when the TSB England and Wales has 1250 branches compared with 280 branches in Scotland, the former has pre-tax profits of £102.4m compared with Scotland's £32.6m profit, and we could go on.

If Scotland was to be nationalised tomorrow surely we would not intend to be parochial about it, have not the brains and the willingness to work of Scotsmen the world over not done Scotland proud? Our travellers who have settled abroad and that could include England, have built for us a tremendous reputation. The thought that all the powers of

the Scottish TSB will go to England must be false. It cannot be argued that the England and Wales branch is by far the largest TSB so therefore logically the headquarters will be in England, and if the Scots cannot hold their place in this amalgamation then my estimate of them must be wrong.

The argument that all power in Scotland would be in the hands of a few Scots is a political one. The best advice our politicians could give to Scottish depositors in TSB would be to buy shares in the forthcoming sale, all Scottish shrewdness would discern that this will be of more monetary value to the depositor in the short and long term, and to the depositor is not this what matters most?

The TSB has come a long way — to halt progress now would be retrograde, and so unlike the Scots.

Peter G. Mitchell, Southside, Five Street, Keith, Banffshire, AB5 3EG.

Uninformed by the trustees

From Dr A. Charles

Sir—Those who oppose the privatisation of TSB Scotland deserve our thanks. The bank has made no attempt to keep its depositors informed. Enquiries have been met with the bland assurance that Parliament has considered all, and everything would be explained in an information pack to be made available to everyone.

The pack turned out to be a ruse, a sales brochure, presenting a fait accompli and explaining nothing. Which, but for the court case at Edinburgh, would leave depositors who suspected fiery poker with the daunting task of perusing the matter at short notice in Hansard.

The TSB has always had a neglectful local favour about it. In Wales we now find that our so-called trustees have neglected Welsh interests to a point where I have even failed to find the number of branches in Wales, let alone a figure for Welsh profits. So one must vehemently object to control from SE England, a region where apparently TSB has never been much in favour, and to the power that outside institutions will wield when they set their hands on TSB shares.

This notation basically is the seizure by the Government of assets belonging to a large body of unorganised depositors so as to transfer them predominantly into the hands of a small group

associated with activities highly favoured by the Government. TSB has done very well to date. Some depositors simply do not see why it should change character the way this Government wants, a way which is already making some building societies behave like property magistrates, can back street money-lenders, rather than as mutual societies.

To me it is disgraceful that writers in your paper (November 15) are willing to ignore that a Parliamentary Act in structuring an action by the Government assumes that action to be legal, and that an illegal action is not a crime.

This, together with TSB trustees to forestall depositor protest, when they should be inviting opinions, is poor testimony to the morals of the financial climate into which TSB is being moved.

(Dr) Arwyn Charles, Crud yr Arel, Boverton, Llanilltud Fawr, Glam.

The deer hunters

From Mr R. Rowley

Sir—"The deer hunters" (November 16) entirely misses the cardinal objection of those who oppose deer hunting, namely, the cruelty involved.

Your correspondent states that "the hunters maintain that it (the deer) is just moving away from the bounds, horses and people and has no understanding of being hunted." I am sure that there can be few readers who would believe such nonsense any more than they would accept your correspondent's cosy description of the hunted animal being "not very concerned... other than to look on looking for a quieter cover."

hunted stag runs not infrequently for more than 20 miles, sometimes seriously injuring itself as it runs over difficult terrain in an attempt to escape and all to often collapses from exhaustion at the end.

I have witnessed a hind driven in her vain bid to beat the hounds as she was hunted down a swollen river: while in another instance the poor creature was driven out to sea; this at a time when the animal was almost certainly in an advanced stage of pregnancy.

Only terror could force such "timid" creatures to such extremes. The 1911 Prevention

of Cruelty to Animals Act specifically accepts the terrorising of any animal as a criminal act but is so worded to let the hunters off the hook. This is an inexcusable disgrace and it is high time that this antiquated statute is brought up to date in line with current thinking and knowledge.

The article implies that deer hunting stops local farmers from shooting deer. Nothing could be further from reality. Some of the hunt supporting farmers are the biggest villains in this respect. To take matters even worse, the hunters themselves organise deer shoots, naturally under a cloak of secrecy as this activity clearly destroys the main plank of their argument that deer hunting is necessary if the deer herd is to be controlled.

R. F. Rowley, Chairman, League Against Cruel Sports 1987/77, 141, Cranley Gardens, N10.

Stemming the rise in unemployment

From Mr J. Johnson

Sir—When the Employment Institute was launched earlier this year with much pomp and circumstance its leading members boldly denied suggestions that it would be merely another platform for neo-Keynesian orthodoxy. It was to have introduced new ideas, drawn from every quarter, into public debate. The view of the sceptics is entirely vindicated at the least for the present, by the letter from Lord Caldecote et al (November 12). Their last sentence—"Only by policies aimed at non-inflationary growth can unemployment be reduced," is, though quite vague, defensible, but after a defence of the policies which produced stagflation, it comes as a non sequitur.

There is plenty of evidence that the generally non-inflationary policies available to the Government—which mainly concern the labour market and the tax and benefit system, and which these authors assert "will take some years to have an effect on employment"—not only have already helped to stem the increase in unemployment, but could reduce it quite rapidly, if only the Government would stop using demographic changes as an alibi.

Unemployment has nothing to do with baby booms, but everything to do with psychological factors, such as the prejudice against low wage employers which Samuel Brittan so ingeniously exposed (November 2). Keynes at least possessed a subtle grasp of such factors; the Employment Institute lacks even that.

"Financial markets have been conditioned to believe that fiscal expansion would be bad for the economy." People who suppose that the market has been, or could be, "conditioned," do not know what a market is.

Daniel Johnson, 1076 Shirland Road, W9.

BUILDING SOCIETY RATES

	Share	Sub'n	Other
Abbey National	7.00	8.00	
Ald to Thrift	9.20		
Alliance and Leicester	7.00	8.00	
Anglia	7.00	8.00	
Barnsley	7.00	9.00	
Bradford and Bingley	7.00	8.00	
Bristol and West	7.00	8.00	
Britannia	7.00	8.00	
Cardiff	8.50	8.00	
Catholic	7.30	7.30	
Century (Edinburgh)	8.85		
Chelsea	7.00	8.00	
Cheltenham and Gloucester		8.00	
Chesham	7.00	8.50	
City of London (The)	7.25	8.75	
Coventry	7.00	8.25	
Derbyshire	7.00	8.25	
Frome Salwood	7.00	10.50	
Gateway	7.00	8.00	
Greenwich	7.00		
Guardian	7.65		
Halifax	7.00	8.00	
Heart of England	7.00	8.25	
Hemel Hempstead	7.00	8.00	
Hendon	8.00		
Hinckley and Rugby	7.00	9.50	
Lambeth	7.15	8.25	
Leamington Spa	7.10		
Leeds and Holbeck	7.00	8.75	
Leeds Permanent	7.00	8.00	
London Permanent	7.75		
Midshire	7.00		
Monmouth	9.10		
National Counties	8.70	8.55	
National and Provincial	7.00	8.00	
Nationwide	7.00		
Newcastle	7.00	8.25	
Northern Rock	7.00	8.25	
Norwich	7.00	8.25	
Packham	7.65		
Peterborough	7.00	8.30	
Portman	7.00	9.25	
Portsmouth	7.15	8.65	
Property Owners	7.50	9.00	
Regency	7.00		
Scarborough	7.00	8.25	
Skipton	7.00	8.25	
Sussex County	7.00	8.25	
Thrift	9.20		
Town and Country	7.00		
Wessex	9.10		
Woolwich	7.00		
Yorkshire	7.00	8.00	

All these per cent rates are after basic rate tax liability has been settled on behalf of the investor

Kwik Save 13% higher at £36m

COND-HALF profits of £20.6m reported by the supermarket chain Kwik Save Discount Group, a company with £17.45m last year and brings total profit for the year ended August 31 1985 to £35.99m, an advance of 28 per cent over the previous year. The dividend is raised to 4.1p to 4.8p.

Sales showed an increase of 9 per cent to £724.26m (941.47m). Wage costs are still at a faster rate than food price inflation, Mr I. M. Howe, chairman, states, but there has been a slight improvement in margins.

The profit includes an increase from £1.88m to £2.47m in interest received. This stems from better cash balances, which have arisen despite more capital spending.

Mr Howe says in the year 57 new stores (40 Kwik Save and 17 Arctic Freezer Centres) were opened and five closed, and an additional 20 wines and spirits stores were opened. Major refits were carried out at 54 stores. At August 31 the group was



Mr I. M. Howe, the chairman

trading in 420 Kwik Saves, 22 Arctic Freezer Centres and 17 wines and spirits stores. New store openings were spread around all the group's existing trading areas—the north-west

and Wales, the north-east and Yorkshire.

The rights led to improved sales. Coleman Meat Company has completed another successful year.

Gross concession and other rental income rose by 7.4 per cent from £6.26m to £6.72m. The chairman says growth in this area will decline as more of the group's space is utilised for its own activities.

After tax £15.44m (£14.27m) the year's net profit comes through at £20.64m (£17.5m) for earnings of 11.66p (11.66p) per 10p share. The final dividend is 4.8p.

The annual meeting will be held at Prestatyn on January 9. Shareholders will be asked to approve a change in name to Kwik Save Group.

Comment

Kwik Save's decision to drop Discount from the group's full title represents a small piece of history. In the days of retail price maintenance it sold goods

at a discount to the fixed price regime. Now, long after the passing away of R.P.M., the board has decided that discount no longer fits the bill. However, the analysts do not see it that way, at least as far as the multiple is concerned. Believing in the main that Kwik Save should be on a discount to the sector. For while trading margins are a respectable 5 per cent, there is doubt as to Kwik's capacity to keep up with the sector's bigger operators in volume expansion.

Forecasts are therefore for steady if unexciting growth. And 240m next year would put the shares at 242p on a prospective P/E of 15, with a 40 per cent tax charge. This seems ranked about right given Sainsbury's perspective of 21. If the shares rise much further it will be because the market is putting credence in takeover rumours—fuelled by Argyll's moves in Distillers' direction. Argyll operate quite a large number of the liquor outlets within the Kwik Save stores.

Mr Martin said that the structure had been largely dictated by the group's expected customer requirements. "We have sought to combine the skills of our separate firms in such a way that not only do we have a better customer, and equally to those of private individuals."

Union Discount Company of London has been admitted as an external member of the Stock Exchange. All conditions attached to the recent agreement between Union and Aitken Campbell have been satisfied and Union now holds a 14.9 per cent limited partner interest in the firm. This interest may be increased to 100 per cent.

Barclays unveils securities structure plan

Barclays, the clearing bank, is forming a holding company, Barclays de Zoete Wedd Holdings, for its new securities and investment activities.

The holding company will include Barclays Merchant Bank, along with de Zoete & Bevan, the stockbrokers, and W & A Duracher, the jobbing firm which Barclays is buying to participate in the City Revolution.

Sir Martin Jacoby will chair the group—one of the largest emerging in the City—which will have capital of £240m, and will employ 1,300 people. The chief executive will be Lord Camoys of Barclays Merchant Bank, and his deputy will be Mr Rex Cooper, senior partner of de

Zoete. Mr John Robertson, senior partner of Wedds will be deputy chairman responsible for regulatory and compliance matters.

The group will have two leading subsidiaries. Barclays de Zoete Wedd (BZW) will be the leading operating company of the group with a banking licence providing a full range of merchant banking services. Its subsidiaries will be Barclays de Zoete Wedd Securities, a member of the Stock Exchange, and a primary dealer in the gilt-edged market capitalised at between £20m-£30m. BZW will be housed in Ebbw Vale House in Swan Lane.

The second leading subsidiary will be Barclays de Zoete Wedd Asset Management which will be located in separate premises to prevent conflicts of interests. It will manage about £100m in funds.

Sir Martin said yesterday that the holding company would be just over 80 per cent owned by Barclays with the remainder held by the partners of de Zoete & Bevan. Barclays' holding is higher than the 75 per cent first envisaged because the group has emerged in larger form than expected.

BZW has now filled senior management positions in its main areas of operation with people from all three constituent companies. These include, gifts and bonds, UK and international equities, banking and treasury, corporate finance, development capital, finance accounting and settlement. Appointments have

also been made on the asset management side.

Sir Martin said that the structure had been largely dictated by the group's expected customer requirements. "We have sought to combine the skills of our separate firms in such a way that not only do we have a better customer, and equally to those of private individuals."

Union Discount Company of London has been admitted as an external member of the Stock Exchange. All conditions attached to the recent agreement between Union and Aitken Campbell have been satisfied and Union now holds a 14.9 per cent limited partner interest in the firm. This interest may be increased to 100 per cent.

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Intervision still in the red

Intervision Video (Holdings), USM-quoted pre-recorded video tape distributor, has suffered a pre-tax loss of £156,000 for the six months to end-May 1985.

For the 17 months to November 1984 the company recorded a loss of £1,950m, but comparative this time are not shown, directors say, because of changes in the group's operations.

Turnover for the half year was £286,000, excluding the sales of Video Club (GB), its 50 per cent-owned related company.

Burton directors' £3m share sale profit

BY CHARLES BATCHELOR

SIX DIRECTORS of Burton Group, including Mr Ralph Halpern, the chairman, yesterday made a gross profit of a little more than £3m after exercising options on and then selling 551,600 of the retailing group's shares.

The directors exercised options to acquire 531,600 shares at 49p and sold them at 56p each. A further 20,000 shares were bought at 67p and sold for 56p. The options exercised repre-

sented 13.6 per cent of the total number held by Burton directors, including the two who did not exercise any options yesterday, retain 3.5m options.

Mr Halpern exercised options on 300,000 shares, Mr Charles Bracken on 65,000, Mr Laurence Cooklin on 23,000, Mr Gerald Slater on 50,000, Mr Michael Wood on 60,000 and Mr Robert Woodman on 52,800. Mr Halpern said: "Share options are part of the remuneration package of our executives. The fifth consecutive year of profits growth announced (on Thursday) is a testimony to their abilities, now being rewarded."

Burton increased pre-tax profits by 42 per cent to a record £80.2m in the year ended August 1985. Turnover rose 32 per cent to £551m. During the year Burton acquired Debenhams for £579m and Collier Holdings.

FT-ACTUARIES SHARE INDICES

These indices are the joint compilation of the Financial Times, The Institute of Actuaries and the Faculty of Actuaries

EQUITY GROUPS & SUB-SECTIONS	Figures in parentheses show number of stocks per section	Fri Nov 22 1985										Highs and Lows Index			
		Index	Day's Change	%	Ex. Dividend	Gross Yield	Net Yield	P/E Ratio	Div. Yield	Div. Yield	Div. Yield	Index	Index	Index	Index
1 CAPITAL GOODS (207)	595.04	+0.9	0.15	12.74	14.28	579.59	570.83	565.81	541.13	585.04	22/11	483.30	257	585.04	22/11
2 Building Materials (22)	646.03	+0.9	0.14	12.74	14.28	579.59	570.83	565.81	541.13	585.04	22/11	483.30	257	585.04	22/11
3 Consumer Goods (207)	595.04	+0.9	0.15	12.74	14.28	579.59	570.83	565.81	541.13	585.04	22/11	483.30	257	585.04	22/11
4 Electronics (13)	595.04	+0.9	0.15	12.74	14.28	579.59	570.83	565.81	541.13	585.04	22/11	483.30	257	585.04	22/11
5 Electronics (13)	595.04	+0.9	0.15	12.74	14.28	579.59	570.83	565.81	541.13	585.04	22/11	483.30	257	585.04	22/11
6 Mechanical Engineering (61)	334.45	+0.3	0.09	13.86	8.77	333.58	331.42	328.10	262.99	334.65	22/11	263.85	297	334.65	22/11
7 Metals and Metal Forming (7)	243.73	+0.4	0.16	13.86	8.77	243.73	241.57	238.19	160.06	243.73	22/11	165.08	147	243.73	22/11
8 Motors (17)	208.01	+0.2	0.10	13.86	8.77	207.64	205.48	201.92	126.01	208.01	22/11	126.57	3/1	208.01	22/11
9 Other Industrial Materials (20)	1059.62	+0.4	0.04	13.86	8.77	1059.62	1057.46	1053.90	763.24	1059.62	22/11	828.60	3/1	1059.62	22/11
10 CONSUMER GROUP (177)	777.61	+0.7	0.09	13.86	8.77	777.61	775.45	771.89	771.89	777.61	22/11	777.61	22/11	777.61	22/11
11 Breweries and Distillers (2)	747.98	+0.7	0.09	13.86	8.77	747.98	745.82	742.26	742.26	747.98	22/11	747.98	22/11	747.98	22/11
12 Food Manufacturing (2)	564.84	+1.6	0.28	13.86	8.77	564.84	562.68	559.12	451.45	564.84	22/11	471.42	257	564.84	22/11
13 Food Retailing (14)	1786.37	+1.2	0.07	13.86	8.77	1786.37	1784.21	1780.55	1351.94	1786.37	22/11	1400.36	1/3	1786.37	22/11
14 Health and Household Products (2)	2283.58	+1.6	0.36	13.86	8.77	2283.58	2281.42	2277.76	1388.40	2283.58	22/11	1980.65	1/3	2283.58	22/11
15 Leisure (24)	1024.24	+0.7	0.07	13.86	8.77	1024.24	1022.08	1018.42	771.89	1024.24	22/11	990.69	1/3	1024.24	22/11
16 Newspapers, Publishing (11)	1363.63	+0.1	0.01	13.86	8.77	1363.63	1361.47	1357.81	1018.42	1363.63	22/11	1018.42	1/3	1363.63	22/11
17 Packaging and Paper (3)	747.98	+0.7	0.09	13.86	8.77	747.98	745.82	742.26	742.26	747.98	22/11	747.98	22/11	747.98	22/11
18 Stores (42)	822.57	+0.5	0.06	13.86	8.77	822.57	820.41	816.75	624.73	822.57	22/11	624.73	1/3	822.57	22/11
19 Textiles (16)	376.67	+0.5	0.13	13.86	8.77	376.67	374.51	370.85	297.30	376.67	22/11	297.30	1/3	376.67	22/11
20 Tobacco (3)	804.93	+0.7	0.09	13.86	8.77	804.93	802.77	799.11	624.73	804.93	22/11	624.73	1/3	804.93	22/11
21 OTHER GROUPS (98)	742.53	+0.5	0.07	13.86	8.77	742.53	740.37	736.71	571.89	742.53	22/11	571.89	1/3	742.53	22/11
22 Chemicals (18)	747.98	+0.7	0.09	13.86	8.77	747.98	745.82	742.26	742.26	747.98	22/11	747.98	22/11	747.98	22/11
23 Shipping and Transport (11)	1363.63	+0.7	0.07	13.86	8.77	1363.63	1361.47	1357.81	1018.42	1363.63	22/11	1018.42	1/3	1363.63	22/11
24 Miscellaneous (63)	917.43	+0.6	0.07	13.86	8.77	917.43	915.27	911.61	712.97	917.43	22/11	712.97	1/3	917.43	22/11
25 Telephone Networks (2)	928.86	+0.3	0.04	13.86	8.77	928.86	926.70	923.04	712.97	928.86	22/11	712.97	1/3	928.86	22/11
26 INDUSTRIAL GROUP (402)	728.70	+0.7	0.09	13.86	8.77	728.70	726.54	722.88	571.89	728.70	22/11	571.89	1/3	728.70	22/11
27 Oils (18)	1210.14	+0.5	0.04	13.86	8.77	1210.14	1207.98	1204.32	924.73	1210.14	22/11	924.73	1/3	1210.14	22/11
28 500 SHARE INDEX (500)	767.84	+0.6	0.08	13.86	8.77	767.84	765.68	762.02	571.89	767.84	22/11	571.89	1/3	767.84	22/11
29 FINANCIAL GROUP (116)	538.54	+0.5	0.09	13.86	8.77	538.54	536.38	532.72	407.59	538.54	22/11	407.59	1/3	538.54	22/11
30 Banks (6)	434.26	+0.5	0.12	13.86	8.77	434.26	432.10	428.44	324.73	434.26	22/11	324.73	1/3	434.26	22/11
31 Insurance (Life) (7)	434.26	+0.5	0.12	13.86	8.77	434.26	432.10	428.44	324.73	434.26	22/11	324.73	1/3	434.26	22/11
32 Insurance (Non-life) (7)	434.26	+0.5	0.12	13.86	8.77	434.26	432.10	428.44	324.73	434.26	22/11	324.73	1/3	434.26	22/11
33 Insurance (Composite) (7)	434.26	+0.5	0.12	13.86	8.77	434.26	432.10	428.44	324.73	434.26	22/11	324.73	1/3	434.26	22/11
34 Insurance (Brokers) (8)	434.26	+0.5	0.12	13.86	8.77	434.26	432.10	428.44	324.73	434.26	22/11	324.73	1/3	434.26	22/11
35 Merchant Banks (11)	286.51	+0.5	0.17	13.86	8.77	286.51	284.35	280.69	212.97	286.51	22/11	212.97	1/3	286.51	22/11
36 Property (51)	405.00	+0.5	0.12	13.86	8.77	405.00	402.84	399.18	304.73	405.00	22/11	304.73	1/3	405.00	22/11
37 Office Equipment (16)	307.22	+0.2	0.06	13.86	8.77	307.22	305.06	301.40	232.36	307.22	22/11	232.36	1/3	307.22	22/11
38 Investment Trusts (206)	643.08	+0.4	0.06	13.86	8.77	643.08	640.92	637.26	483.00	643.08	22/11	483.00	1/3	643.08	22/11
39 Mining (Finance) (3)	265.04	+0.4	0.15	13.86	8.77	265.04	262.88	259.22	194.73	265.04	22/11	194.73	1/3	265.04	22/11
40 Overseas Traders (14)	594.82	+1.3	0.22	13.86	8.77	594.82	592.66	588.90	447.59	594.82	22/11	447.59	1/3	594.82	22/11
41 ALL-SHARE INDEX (799)	699.64	+0.5	0.07	13.86	8.77	699.64	697.48	693.82	524.73	699.64	22/11	524.73	1/3	699.64	22/11

FIXED INTEREST					AVERAGE GROSS REDEMPTION YIELDS			Fri Nov 22	Thur Nov 21	Year ago (approx.)	1985				
											Highs	Lows			
PRICE INDICES	Fri Nov 22	Day's change %	Thur Nov 21	x6 adj. today	x6 adj. 1985 to date										
British Government						1	British Government								
						2	Low 5 years	9.93	9.94	10.57	11.56	28/1	9.75	18/10	
						3	Coupons 15 years	10.17	10.20	10.21	11.20	28/1	9.96	18/10	
						4	Medium 25 years	10.18	10.22	9.80	10.72	29/1	10.00	18/10	
						5	Coupons 5 years	10.40	10.41	10.30	12.39	28/1	10.58	4/10	
						6	Medium 15 years	10.51	10.55	10.60	11.63	28/1	10.30	18/10	
						7	High 6 25 years	10.16	10.21	10.01	10.97	29/1	9.96	18/10	
						8	Coupons 5 years	10.89	10.92	10.88	12.53	28/1	10.65	4/10	
						9	Coupons 15 years	10.66	10.71	10.75	11.76	28/1	10.45	18/10	
						10	Irredeemables 25 years	10.35	10.41	10.11	11.03	29/1	10.09	2/10	
1	5 years	119.15	+0.07	119.07	—	18.54									
2	5-15 years	133.53	+0.32	133.22	—	11.87									
3	Over 15 years	138.72	+0.37	138.20	—	11.77									
4	Irredeemables	150.00	+0.44	150.04	—	13.34									
5	All stocks	131.04	+0.24	130.73	—	11.52									
6	Debentures & Loans	112.66	+0.07	112.58	—	11.11									
7	Preference	82.87	-0.01	82.98	—	6.27	24 Preference	11.22	11.42	12.69	13.34	29/1	11.73	25/10	
BRITISH GOVERNMENT INDEX—LINKED STOCKS															
8	All stocks	109.53	-0.05	109.58	—	2.69	15 inflation rate	5%	3.71	3.70	3.40	3.72	3.67	3.11	12/3
							16	10%	3.52	3.50	3.21	3.55	3.41/1	2.94	11/3

Growth slackens at Japan's city banks

BY YOKO SHIBATA IN TOKYO

JAPAN'S 13 "city" or commercial banks improved their combined pre-tax profits by 1.2 per cent to ¥545.5bn (\$2.7bn) in the half-year to September as slower growth resulted from a narrowing in rate spreads.

This followed cuts in May and July, in long-term prime lending rates and an increasing dependence on costly market-oriented funding such as the country's newly introduced money market certificates and certificates of deposit.

Deposits reached ¥123.11bn at the term end, up 3.6 per cent from the previous half-year to March and ahead by 2.9 per cent over the September 1984 half-year.

This reflected increased deposits from big companies following a recovery in their business.

Loans by the 13 stood at ¥117.74bn, up 5.5 per cent from the March half-year and 6 per cent above the September

1984 period. The gain was attributed to aggressive lending to medium and small-sized companies in an attempt to make up for the narrowing spreads between deposits and loans. At the same time, however, larger companies were turning to funds raised in the domestic and overseas capital markets.

Revenue from overseas operations advanced a comfortable 21.3 per cent to ¥38.46bn, thanks to the sharp declines in interest rates abroad.

Operating profits before securities gains rose 27.1 per cent to ¥480.85bn. This was assisted by a reduced level of special reserves for overseas credits and by the writing-off of bad loans which amounted to ¥30bn for the 13 banks.

Dollar-denominated overseas liabilities were reduced by the yen's steep appreciation towards the end of September.

JAPANESE COMMERCIAL BANKS

Parent company results for half-year to Sept. 85 (Sept. 84)	Revenue (¥bn)	Pre-tax profits (¥bn)	Net profits (¥bn)
Daiichi Kangyo	1,067 (1,087)	72.94 (63.23)	35.06 (29.05)
Sumitomo	977 (991)	80.17 (74.66)	40.67 (35.91)
Fuji	777 (1,022)	75.59 (68.91)	37.25 (32.04)
Sanwa	889 (909)	61.44 (68.11)	34.15 (28.01)
Mitsubishi	883 (951)	60.51 (60.08)	35.64 (30.51)
Total	622 (641)	35.12 (37.50)	16.23 (17.63)
Tokai	618 (721)	30.44 (34.51)	18.35 (13.69)
Mitsui	603 (664)	32.47 (34.40)	18.54 (17.07)
Taiyo Kobe	519 (509)	21.85 (22.15)	11.43 (9.10)
Daiwa	358 (334)	20.95 (16.52)	7.58 (7.54)
Kyowa	334 (308)	22.80 (16.48)	9.25 (6.59)
Saitama	305 (306)	17.05 (18.51)	7.58 (7.04)
Hokkaido	263 (274)	13.88 (12.85)	5.49 (4.67)
Yokohama			

Bank creditors cool on Pan-Electric rescue plan

BY CHRIS SHERWELL IN SINGAPORE

BANK CREDITORS of Pan-Electric Industries, the financially troubled Singapore company, failed yesterday to respond to a rescue package put forward by Mr Tan Koon Swan, the Malaysian entrepreneur who holds a 22.6 per cent stake in the company through Sigma International.

Trading in Pan-Electric, Sigma and a third quoted company, Growth Industrial Holdings, which holds 31.6 per cent of Pan-Electric, was suspended earlier this week after Pan-Electric defaulted on a S\$7.5m (US\$3.6m) loan repayment.

Pan-Electric has total debts of S\$400m, and its default stunned the stock market which has seen the Straits Times index shed almost 30 points since the

close on Monday.

A steering committee representing 30 banks, most of them foreign, was continuing a fifth day of talks last night.

Mr Tan is widely expected to win a protracted battle for the leadership of Malaysia's main Chinese political party this weekend, and for him the Pan-Electric crisis could not have come at a worse time.

Partly because the reverberations of a collapse would spread so wide, hopes have been pinned on Mr Tan bailing out the company, despite his small shareholding and lack of direct involvement in its management.

Pan-Electric's bank creditors, concerned specifically about the debt repayment the company has failed to meet, have apparently found it difficult to the rescue proposals.

They sought an opinion yesterday from the Monetary Authority of Singapore, the island state's bank regulatory authority, which has so far remained largely on the sidelines.

LADEROKE INDEX
1,129.133 (+16)
Based on FT Index
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OFS merger will boost dividends

ANGLO AMERICAN Corporation yesterday took the wraps off its Orange Free State mining merger, which when implemented, will create the world's largest gold mining company.

After almost a year of negotiations with the South African authorities and in-house evaluations of the individual mines, four mines are to be merged to form one operating company, Free State Consolidated Gold Mines (Freegold).

This in turn will be controlled by two pyramid companies.

In Johannesburg, mining analysts were agreed that the merger terms were among the most complex ever seen. The four companies are Free State Gold, President Brand, President Steyn and Western Holdings.

According to Mr Guy Young, the managing director of Anglo's OFS gold and uranium division, the merger will provide for the more efficient utilisation of existing shafts and treatment plants, and a more effective deployment of labour.

The four mines together process about 200 tonnes of ore and produce more than 110 tonnes of gold a year from 29 shafts and eight metallurgical plants. They have estimated proven ore reserves of about 350m tonnes containing about 2,600 tonnes of gold.

Anglo estimates that total reserves will be sufficient to maintain merged operations until about the year 2015. Less efficient working by the unmerged individual mines would, the house believes, result in large amounts of unpayable ore being left unmined.

Operating efficiencies resulting from the merger will permit ore to be extracted at lower pay limits, thereby allowing otherwise unpayable ore to be mined profitably.

The South African authorities have consistently declared their opposition to any merger

scheme which would reduce the state's tax income. Other, earlier mergers have led to considerable losses of revenue.

The proposed OFS merger terms overcome this difficulty, in part through the introduction of a time dependent formula for calculating the mines' lease payments to the state. A variable single lease formula has been negotiated for Freegold

dividends. These benefits "are likely to become apparent in 1987."

Anglo and its associates own about 30 per cent of the shares of the four mines. Operational control of the companies is to be given to President Steyn, to be renamed Freegold. Shareholders of the mines will be offered direct and indirect equity participation in the

holders may if they wish tender 6 per cent of their Freegold shares to Ofsil for Ofsil shares and on 32 per cent of their Freegold shares to Welkom for shares in Welkom. One Freegold share will be equivalent to 1.47 Welkom shares.

President Brand shareholders will be entitled to 134 Freegold shares for every 100 President Brand shares. As with the FSG offer, 27 per cent of the Freegold shares received are compulsorily convertible into Ofsil shares and the Brand shareholder may choose to convert his Freegold shares into Ofsil or Welkom on the same terms.

President Steyn is to make a one-for-one scrip issue and, when the company's name is changed to Freegold, Steyn shareholders will compulsorily hand over 27 per cent of their Freegold shares to Ofsil in exchange for Ofsil shares. They will have the same voluntary conversion options as FSG and Brand shareholders.

Western Holdings shareholders will be entitled to 100 Ofsil shares for every 100 Western Holdings shares, and they may tender 33 per cent of them to Anglo American or Anglo American Gold for shares in Freegold and a cash adjustment.

Anglo calculates on 1984 figures that merger would have improved President Steyn's dividend income by 14.5 per cent, President Brand's by 8.5 per cent and FSG's by 1.5 per cent. Western Holdings' shareholders would have suffered a 14.1 per cent reduction in dividend income, but Mr Young says they will enjoy better long-term dividend prospects.

Trading in the shares of Welkom and the four operating mines will resume on Monday, and shareholders will vote on the merger proposals on January 13. The scheme is expected to receive final sanction by South Africa's Supreme Court on February 10.

Jim Jones in Johannesburg reports on the mining rationale behind Anglo American's planned four-way gold mining merger

which becomes more favourable as overall gold recovery grades decline with passage of time.

The merger has been criticised by mine investment advisors in Johannesburg and the US, who feel that it will lead to profits from the comparatively rich Brand and Steyn mines being diverted away from dividends and directed into otherwise unproductive capital expenditure at the lower-grade FSG and Western Holdings properties. Anglo receives a management fee of about 3 per cent of the worth of any capital project.

Mr Young says, however, that no capital projects are being planned which would have to be abandoned if shareholders do not approve the merger and adds that at present there are no plans to increase capital spending as a result of the merger.

Anglo estimates that the merger will result in the production of an additional 40 tonnes of gold over the project's life, that more efficient use of existing facilities will lead to a saving of about R1.5bn in cost and capital expenditure, that the state will receive an additional R1.5bn in tax revenues, and that shareholders will receive R700m more in

merged company.

At least 50 per cent of Freegold's equity will be held by a newly-formed company, Orange Free State Investments (Ofsil), to comply with Johannesburg Stock Exchange regulations. A further 5 per cent to 25 per cent of Freegold's equity will be held directly by newly-named Welkom Gold Holdings with the precise percentage depending upon the extent of which shareholders in the four mines exercise various options.

Welkom Gold Holdings is called Welkom Gold Mining at present and owns 47.7 per cent of Western Holdings' Equity. In addition Welkom will hold about 30 per cent of Ofsil.

Participation by Welkom and Ofsil in Freegold's control structure is designed to overcome the objections of US mutual funds which are prevented from having more than 5 per cent of their portfolios in any one company.

Terms of the offer are that FSG's shareholders can acquire 328 Freegold shares for every 100 FSG. Of these Freegold shares, 27 per cent will be compulsorily acquired by Ofsil which will issue 2.61 Ofsil shares for every Freegold share. In addition FSG share-

VW board wants details of Seat debt

By Jonathan Carr in Frankfurt

MAJOR ISSUES still need to be clarified in negotiations between Volkswagen, the West German vehicle maker, can take a majority stake in Seat, the Spanish state-owned car manufacturer.

According to a VW statement, the questions include how Seat's accumulated debt is to be handled and the company's restructured before a holding company acquires a holding factory modernisation also need clarifying.

The statement follows a meeting yesterday by the VW supervisory board which "took note of the negotiating aim" of the managing board.

VW and Seat have had a co-operation agreement since 1962. Word that VW was considering taking a stake in the Spanish concern emerged at the start of this year.

Orient Overseas dives into red

BY DAVID DODWELL IN HONG KONG AND CARLA RAPOPORT IN TOKYO

ORIENT OVERSEAS (Holdings), the publicly quoted arm of the troubled Hong Kong-based C. H. Tung shipping group, slid into losses after extraordinary provisions of HK\$1.78bn (US\$228.1m) in the first six months of this year.

The company revealed the loss yesterday in a letter to shareholders outlining plans to restructure the finances and shipping operations of the group. Its problems are seen largely as a symptom of the crisis in the world's shipping industry, where an oversupply of tonnage has so depressed freight rates that many shippers are unable to cover basic overheads.

It was learnt this week that Orient Overseas, with its privately controlled parent, has debts amounting to about US\$2.4bn as a result of ambitious new ship ordering. The debts of Orient alone, which include capitalised leases, stood at HK\$7.25bn on June 30, the company said.

Japanese financial institutions, which are owed about half the US\$2.4bn, remain undecided on whether to accept an interim proposal aimed at staving off the collapse of the private arm of the group.

According to an adviser to the private arm, the Japanese banks have given "tacit" approval to an interim interest repayment proposal, pending a full restructuring plan early next year. Subsequently, however, bankers in Tokyo have pointed

out that no agreement between the two sides has been reached.

Japanese creditors overall are owed more than 60 per cent of the US\$1.2bn debt held by the private arm of the Tung group. They also hold 25 per cent of the Orient Overseas debt. If the Japanese decide against Tung's plans, bankers say that the entire Tung empire, both public and private, would be seriously imperilled.

The restructuring proposals for Orient Overseas, of which C. H. Tung owns more than 80 per cent, involve forming a new container group that would include its terminal and shipping operations, and reducing debts over a two-year period.

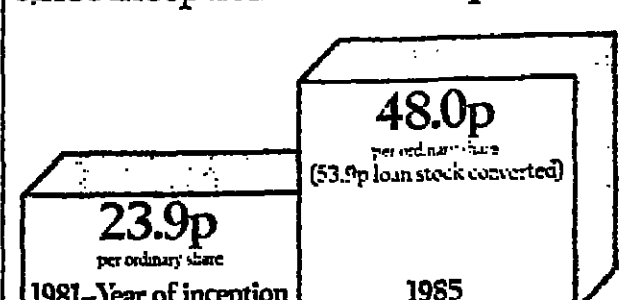
Orient Overseas operates 55 ships, and its main business is a container line. It controls Furness Withy of the UK, although this company would not be absorbed into the new container group under the plan.

Operating profits after interest charges for Orient Overseas in the six months to June were HK\$3.02m, against HK\$149m. However, after extraordinary provisions linked with vessel disposals, and due to debts owing from the private Tung group, the loss attributable to ordinary shareholders was HK\$1.78bn. Net profits for the 1984 first half were HK\$53.5m.

The company reported that all shipping divisions showed depressed market conditions. These were eradicated, however, by debt interest charges,

Japan Assets Trust

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Over-the-Counter Market									
High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Gross Yield	P/E	Full	Actual	Dividend
146	123	Ass. Bnt. Ind. Ord.	123ad	—	0.0	5.4	6.8	8.1	—
151	130	Ass. Bnt. Ind. CULS	130	—	0.0	7.7	—	—	—
77	43	Arnprior Group	59	+1	0.4	10.8	9.8	12.6	—
46	28	Armstrong & Rhodes	43	—	0.3	10.0	5.3	6.4	—
166	108	Barclay Hill	166	+1	4.0	2.4	21.0	21.8	—
54	42	Bay Technologies	52	—	1.9	7.5	6.3	7.3	—
201	145	CCL Ordinary	145	—	12.0	8.3	3.5	3.4	—
152	103	CCL 11pc Conv. Pl.	103	—	15.7	15.2	—	—	—
130	100	Carborundum Ord.	120ad	—	3.9	4.1	5.9	9.3	—
93	83	Carborundum 7.5pc Pl.	83	—	10.7	11.5	—	—	—
73	46	Dobson Services	58	+1	7.0	12.0	6.0	7.9	—
32	21	Frederick Parker	21	—	—	—	—	—	—
83	33	George Blair	75	—	—	—	3.1	5.6	—
50	20	Ind. Precision Castings	45ad	—	3.0	6.6	11.9	9.9	—
218	177	Isis Group	181	—	15.0	8.3	13.9	20.8	—
124	101	Jackson Group	110ad	—	8.5	5.0	7.4	7.7	—
285	213	James Burrough	275	+2	15.0	5.5	8.7	8.7	—
95	83	James Burrough 9pc Pl.	95	—	12.9	13.6	—	—	—
95	71	John Howard and Co.	78ad	—	5.0	6.4	6.2	9.8	—
225	100	Lingwood Ord.	180ad	—	15.0	16.7	—	—	—
100	30	Lingwood 10.5pc Pl.	30s	—	8.9	1.2	24.9	23.7	—
650	300	Linphouse Holding NV	570s	—	2.3	1.3	18.4	18.4	—
120	21	Robert Jenkins	73	—	—	—	—	—	—
60	28	Scrummings "A"	31	—	—	—	—	—	—
82	61	Torday and Cartelle	68	—	5.0	7.4	3.4	6.2	—
444	320	Trevian Holdings	330	—	2.3	1.3	18.4	18.4	—
36	17	Unilock Holdings	36	—	2.1	5.8	8.8	8.8	—
122	81	Walter Alexander	121	—	8.8	7.1	8.8	8.3	—
247	196	W. S. Yeates	230	—	17.4	8.7	5.7	9.8	—

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FT INDEX
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- Hourly updated FT Index
- Starting Exchange Rates updated 3 times daily
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- Dow Jones Industrial Average
- Share Market Report

Objective-Income growth Interim dividend up 23%

20% rise forecast for year

Securities Trust of Scotland's main investment objective is to achieve growth in income and dividends through a balanced portfolio of investments diversified both internationally and industrially.

Earnings for ordinary shareholders in the Trust, managed by the Edinburgh-based Martin Currie group, increased by 43 per cent to £2,430,000 in the half year to September 30th. Income growth will be less in the second half of the year. However, based on the present portfolio, estimated net revenue for the year will be considerably higher than for 1984/5.

In view of this, the board intends to recommend total dividends of at least 4.80p a share - 20 per cent above last year's level. This will make the fifteenth consecutive year that dividends have been increased - by 96 per cent in the past five years.

Net asset value per share was 156.8p at September 30th, an increase of 2.1 per cent since the end of March. During the same period the Financial Times All Share Index was up 1.6 per cent.

Over the five years to the end of September the net asset value per share has risen over 130 per cent. By comparison, the Retail Price Index and the FT All Share Index were up 39% and 116% respectively.

At 30th September, the Trust had 126 holdings invested as follows:-

United Kingdom	57.3%	Currency Exposure	65.6%
North America	25.7%	"	14.3%
Far East	14.4%	"	17.0%
Europe	2.6%	"	3.1%
	100.0%		100.0%

SECURITIES TRUST OF SCOTLAND
Securities Trust of Scotland p.l.c.
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MARTIN CURRIE

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Postcode: _____

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS													
CALLS							PUTS						
Option	Jan.	Apr.	July	Jan.	Apr.	July	Option	Feb.	May	Aug.	Feb.	May	Aug.
B.P. ('606)	500	118	138	—	11 1/2	6	P. & O. ('488)	580	52	58	—	14	20
	550	58	80	—	9	18		480	30	38	—	15	22
	600	27	38	—	47	20		460	13	20	—	14	25
Cons. Gold ('513)	480	110	120	—	12	6	Royal ('142)	250	32	38	—	2	4
	460	68	80	—	10	18		120	30	38	26	—	7
	500	68	85	75	54	40		140	14	18	26	—	10
	560	84	87	45	52	64		160	5	12	24	—	5
Courtauld ('183)	150	53	57	—	1	1 1/2	R.T.Z. ('547)	500	52	57	—	9	16
	140	43	47	—	1	1		550	37	45	56	—	20
	150	8 1/2	15	19	8	10		600	16	28	—	65	78
Com. Union ('239)	300	44	51	—	1 1/2	2 1/2	Val. Secs ('96)	45	26	28	—	0 1/2	1
	320	28	35	—	1	5		40	14	17	18	5 1/4	7 1/2
	340	15	23	31	9	14		50	8 1/2	11	13	6 1/4	11
	260	6	12	31	24	89							
Distillers ('490)	460	52	68	85	9	13	Ex 105 1989 ('236)	96	14	22	—	0 1/2	0 1/2
	500	25	38	63	55	37		100	0 1/2	0 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	—
	620	18	23	55	66	67		100	0 1/2	0 1/2	—	—	—
G.E.O. ('168)	140	52	58	—	2	3	Tr. 1125 1981 ('210)	108	10 1/2	—	—	—	—
	160	38	48	50	3	5		104	—	—	—	—	—
	180	17	28	54	6	10		106	—	—	—	—	—
	200	5	18	—	1	12		108	—	—	—	—	—
Grand Merc. ('345)	380	123	125	—	1	1	Tr. 1125 1987 ('2104)	104	4 1/2	4 1/2	0 1/2	0 1/2	0 1/2
	500	103	108	—	1	2		110	2 1/2	2 1/2	5 1/4	0 1/2	0 1/2
	620	73	75	65	3	6		118	0 1/2	0 1/2	0 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2
	380	21	28	45	10	15		115	0 1/2	0 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
I.C.I. ('732)	600	147	154	164	1 1/2	4							
	680	100	107	117	7	18							
	700	54	62	—	43	—							
	750	30	—	—	—	—							
	800	7 1/2	—	—	—	—							
Land Sec. ('323)	380	63	—	—	1 1/2	—							
	500	43	51	—	—	—							
	620	34	43	43	8	13							
	330	6	15	15 1/2	22	25							
Marke & Sp. ('189)	150	52	66	—	1	1 1/2							
	140	42	58	—	1	1							
	160	38	56	42	1 1/2	4							
	180	13	19	23	6	8							
	200	6	8	12	7	20							
Shell Trans ('686)	380	52	62	73	8	22							
	700	20	32	—	70	20							
	750	5	12	—	—	—							
Trafalgar Hse ('334)	380	57	63	68	1 1/2	2							
	500	30	36	46	3	10							
	390	13	23	29	15	30							
Option	Feb.	May	Aug.	Feb.	May	Aug.							
BAT Inds ('225)	260	40	47	—	4	11							
	280	26	32	42	8	17							
	200	16	23	—	—	—							
	330	5	12	—	45	43							
Barclays ('456)	380	110	115	—	2	3							
	390	80	87	—	4	7							
	420	52	62	72	8	12							
	460	35	39	37	22	30							
Brit. Aco. ('463)	330	145	160	—	1	1							
	350	118	128	—	2	5 1/2							
	370	85	95	—	2	5							
	390	50	75	67	10	15							
	420	30	45	67	20	25							
	460	25	45	67	—	—							
Brit.Landsec ('304)	150	49	—	—	0 1/2	—							
	180	29	36	40	9	12							
	200	12	19	26	8	11							
	220	4 1/2	8 1/2	12	17	16							
Imperial Gr. ('517)	150	64	67	—	1 1/2	8							
	180	45	49	—	2	5							
	200	17	32	—	12	9							
	220	14	38	23	18	15							
LASMO ('256)	340	88	94	86	10	16							
	360	68	77	42	20	25							
	380	19	26	30	30	35							
	400	11	20	—	—	—							
LONGROE ('187)	140	37	66	—	1 1/2	1 1/2							
	160	37	62	—	2	5							
	180	23	23	43	6	18							
	200	12	18	16	16	20							
Option	Nov.	Dec.	Feb.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.							
FT-SE Index ('1448)	1252	1297	1288	—	1	4							
	1250	1295	1285	—	1	4							
	1275	76	97	89	1	6							
	1400	48	57	83	78	11							
	1450	—	—	—	—	—							
	1450	—	18	20	40	—							
November 22 Total contracts 21,531 Calls 16,197 Puts 4,850													
Underlying, security price													

to over 52 points since Monday

[illegible]

Manufacturer Life Insurance Co (HIF)		Property Growth Assur Co Ltd	
St George's Way, Slough		Leam Road, Croydon CR9 1LN	
Managed	£19.5	Property Fund	£21.4
Property	£23.5	Property Fund Ltd	£20.9
	£43.0	Agricultural Fund	£20.1

فَإِنْ أَصْحَابُ الْاِصْحَابِ

[illegible]

23 1985
LEISURE

[illegible]

Fiat signals move on Ford's UK truck division

By Alan Friedman in Milan

FIAT WAS said yesterday to be in an advanced stage of negotiations for the acquisition of Ford Europe's British truck division. It is understood, however, that any eventual deal could take the form of a joint venture rather than an acquisition.

The development was mentioned in Turin by Mr Giovanni Agnelli, chairman of Fiat group. It was the most explicit reference he has made to the prospect of a subsidiary Fiat-Ford deal following collapse last month of long-running talks designed to merge Ford's European car division with Fiat Auto.

The possibility of a venture between Fiat's heavy commercial and industrial vehicles division and Ford's British truck division was hinted at by Mr Agnelli during remarks he made last month in Detroit.

In spite of Mr Agnelli's statement yesterday to Italian journalists at a conference on the car industry, Ford in Britain would not confirm acquisition by Fiat of its UK truck division was imminent.

"We are discussing possible forms of co-operation in the truck field," Ford said.

Ford's UK truck division employs 4,500 and last year made \$4,200 commercial vehicles. The company claims a 31 per cent share of the UK market and says it is thus market leader.

There are two principal manufacturing centres, at Langley, west of London, and at Southampton. Hants. Langley makes cargo, medium and heavy trucks. Southampton produces Transit vans.

Mr Agnelli, commenting on Fiat's strategy in the car market following the collapse of merger talks with Ford, said that today Fiat had no need to link with another company.

However, the Fiat chairman stressed that in the 1990s, it would be desirable for Europe's six leading car-makers to create at least one group leader with about 25 per cent of the European market.

Continued from Page 1

Murdoch

but to be under no obligation to do so.

Yesterday's concession by the NGA comes as Mr Robert Maxwell, publisher of Mirror Group Newspapers, is fighting to cut his total workforce by one-third, from 6,000 to 4,000. He has threatened to close his titles if he cannot obtain agreement.

Next spring Mr Eddy Shah, the newspaper entrepreneur, is due to launch a national daily newspaper with fully-computerised production and a total staff of about 800.

Mr Bill Booroff, NGA London regional secretary, said last night he had not been at yesterday's meeting with News International managers. However, he said: "Conceding the principle of decent work is a major move but it is now in the mainstream of NGA policy. This would, however, be the first time it had happened on a major paper printed in London."

CHIEF PRICE CHANGES YESTERDAY

(Prices in pence unless otherwise indicated)

RISERS	
Tres 11pc 300-04	£1104 + 1
Ashley Ind Trust	88 + 13
Asels Special Sits	71 + 18
BOC	324 + 12
Bairdow Eves	155 + 28
Baldwin (H. J.)	85 + 13
Beecham	313 + 10
Black Arrow	145 + 13
Bodycote Intl	177 + 7
Boots	255 + 18
Britannia Airway	149 + 6
Brown (Matthews)	565 + 23
Carlisle Capel	123 + 13
Connells Est Agents	167 + 10
Empire Stores	163 + 12

FALLS	
ICI	734 - 14
Ladies Brides	28 + 4
Lombro	192 + 9
MAI	385 + 20
Photac (London)	48 + 10
Plessey	142 + 8
Racal Elects	122 + 8
Rank Organisation	473 + 16
BHM	175 + 6
Sangers Photo	103 + 25
Scot & Newcastle	192 + 12
TSL Thermal Synd	218 + 22
United Biscuits	240 + 8
Wagon Finance	117 + 9

UK today: Generally cold. Rain or drizzle in England and Wales. N. Ireland and Scotland will stay dry.

WORLDWIDE WEATHER

Y day: midday Y day: midday Y day: midday Y day: midday

C-Cloudy, D-Drizzle, F-Fair, Fg-Fog, H-Hail, R-Rain, S-Sunny, Si-Sleet, Sn-Snow, T-Thunder.

1 Noon GMT temperatures

Success of summit lifts US hopes

BY STEWART FLEMING IN WASHINGTON

SENIOR REAGAN administration officials, basking in the enthusiastic reception given to the President by Congress on his return from the Geneva summit on Thursday, were yesterday echoing Mr Reagan's hopes of further progress in superpower relations. They hoped, however, that any improvement would be slow.

Mr Robert McFarlane, the President's national security adviser, said the summit "succeeded beyond reasonable expectations in establishing a very fair understanding on both sides of the other country's purposes, priorities, ambitions and willingness to compromise."

He described the arms control discussions between Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, and Mr Reagan as "probably the richest and most thorough exchange between leaders of East and West that I have ever known."

Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, told a morning television audience that he could not promise progress on arms control but that there was "some motion... an urgency that should move further."

Both he and Mr McFarlane hinted strongly that attempts to resolve the regional conflict in Afghanistan could be one positive result. "We hope... we can engage and establish the basis for a political solution there," Mr McFarlane said.

In their efforts to impart an optimistic "spin" to the post-summit reporting, officials were also suggesting that the issue of human rights violations in the Soviet Union was one on which progress was made.

Mr Reagan's report on the summit to a joint session of Congress on Thursday night was a tumultuous success. But many congressmen in both parties, while emphasising their support for the President, said that although the summit itself was a personal triumph for the President, it was only a beginning to the process of improving US-Soviet relations.

Senator Nancy Kassebaum, a moderate Republican and a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said: "While tangible accomplishments from the talks are modest, I believe the summit has opened the way for serious detailed negotiations on a series of critical issues."

Senator Charles Mathias (Republican) said: "The most we could expect was a better relationship and a little easing of arms control, and that's what we got. But I think we did get one thing that I did not expect, which is kind of a new Ronald Reagan. This is the man that talked about the 'evil empire' and he has now changed... and I think that is important."

So far is his domestic political constituency are concerned, the President appears to have bridged successfully the wide gulf between moderates and those on the right. The former have been regretting throughout his administration the lack of dialogue with the Soviet Union, while the latter have maintained that previous dialogues have merely presented the Soviet Union with opportunities to exploit US concessions at the bargaining table.

The point was heavily underlined in Mr Reagan's speech to Congress, in which he stressed that he had rejected the "pet suit of 'illusory detente' while stressing hopes for peace in the future."

Men In The News, Page 8

Mecca Leisure and Warner Holidays bought out for £95m

BY DAVID GOODHART

GRAND METROPOLITAN yesterday announced the sale of Mecca Leisure and Warner Holidays for £95m to a group of Mecca Leisure senior managers backed by Samuel Montagu and the Royal Bank of Scotland.

Outside the US, the deal is believed to be second only in size where management buy-outs are concerned to BAT Industries' disposal of Mardon Packaging for £173m.

The new business—to be called Mecca Leisure—will include Mecca Leisure's 92 social clubs (bingo halls) and 63 entertainment centres; the loss-making Warner Holidays; and Graison, Travel-scene, Ison Brothers, Pointer Motor Company and Scottish Automatic Printing. It will be floated in 12 to 18 months time.

The combined businesses had an operating profit of £9.3m on turnover of £120m in the year to September 1984, compared with £7.2m on turnover of £110m in the previous year. The deal excludes the Mecca Book-makers and casinos, which will remain with Grand Met.

Grand Met said last month that it was in talks with the management over a buy-out but stressed at the time that it was open to offers from outside.

Four or five companies are understood to have made offers, with the Rank Organisation coming closest with its £100m offer—but that would probably have been referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The sale, which reduces Grand Met's turnover by only 2 per cent, is part of its strategy of concentrating on hotels, beer and food. Its shares rose 3p yesterday to close at 386p.

About £54m of medium term bank loans are being provided by Samuel Montagu and the Royal Bank of Scotland and £41m of equity finance is being privately placed next week by Samuel Montagu.

The equity is divided between £31m in convertible preference shares and £10m ordinary equity. The management team—Mr Michael Guthrie, chairman; Mr Jeremy Long, finance director; Mr Barry Anderson, managing director social clubs; and Mr Michael Ludbrook, managing director entertainment and UK holidays—has raised £500,000.

That sum will become £1m (nominal value) of ordinary shares, giving the management team 10 per cent control prior to flotation.

After flotation its stake, which is 40 per cent owned by Mr Guthrie, will convert into £4m (nominal value) of ordinary shares, allowing the team to retain the 10 per cent stake. About 5 per cent of the company will be made available to branch and regional management in a share option scheme.

The company has tangible assets of £70m, mainly property, and less than £5m in debt. It employs about 8,000 people, over 50 per cent of them part-timers, and will have 7 per cent of the UK holiday market and 13 per cent of the bingo market.

Background, Page 4

Canon in talks on European group links

By Christopher Lorenz, Management Editor

CANON, the Japanese camera and office equipment maker which is one of the subjects of an EEC dumping inquiry into copiers, is negotiating with several European companies on a wide range of possible collaborative arrangements.

These could involve the manufacture and supply of copiers and other products, as well as technological co-operation. Mr Takeshi Mitani, president of Canon Europe, said in London yesterday.

Speaking at a Society of Strategic and Long Range Planning conference, he refused to name the companies, but said the talks could also accelerate Canon's plans to start research and development in Europe in a few years.

The negotiations would not be concluded for several months. They could result in Canon's supplying products to more European companies on an original equipment manufacturer basis, under which the companies would sell Canon products under their brand names. Mr Mitani suggested.

Canon already has limited OEM links with a number of European and US companies on various products—including Kodak and Agfa-Gevaert on copiers—but Canon's thrust into the European copier market has been mainly under its own brand name.

Other Japanese copier suppliers, such as Sharp, Toshiba, and Ricoh, have followed a more mixed approach.

Mr Mitani said the dumping inquiry was not the only factor behind the negotiations. Talks were under way independently of the EEC move, and were not confined to copiers.

The group had recently started to expand copier production at its French and West German factories, and might now consider manufacturing elsewhere in Europe. Mr Mitani said: "I would like to see the Canon products that are sold in Britain made in Britain."

The UK was at a disadvantage, however, compared with France, for example, because it had several regional development agencies, rather than one for the whole country.

He denied reports that Canon planned to respond to the EEC dumping inquiry by floating its European operations on local stock markets next year. The parent company would be seeking listings for its shares in London, Paris, New York and possibly Brussels, but not until after 1988.

At present, it is quoted only on the Frankfurt and Luxembourg exchanges.

As a second stage, it hoped to float its European subsidiaries, "but that takes three to five years." This would happen only when these companies had improved their profitability and balance sheets. At present, there were "uncertainties" in several subsidiaries.

Politically, the issue is highly sensitive. Critics could argue that Agusta was spending the Government's money to save jobs in Britain while a third of its staff is laid off in Italy.

The Italian Government is exploring the possibility of finding a form which would make the purchase of an Italian stake in Westland more acceptable in political terms. In Britain it is being suggested that Mr Heseltine might be amenable to a solution—so far unspecified—which could involve European and US capital.

West German surpluses 'greater than required'

BY RUPERT CORNWELL IN BONN

A LEADING West German economic study group has admitted for the first time that the country's large trade and current account surpluses are far greater than required, and as such are no service to the cause of improved international economic balance.

But in its annual report issued yesterday, Bonn's council of independent economic advisers—the so-called "five wise men"—comes out firmly in support of the Government's doctored refusal to take any significant extra action to pump up domestic demand.

The group opposes a "more generous" expansion of money supply than the present target, as well as any real increase in public spending. Such measures, it argues, would do more to hurt West Germany's trading partners in the longer run than to help them.

"In all probability," they write, even if such a policy were successful in the short term, it would later lead to higher prices and higher interest rates. Were the D-mark to weaken, it would only damage the competitive position of other countries, and further threaten international trading harmony.

Even so, the views of the so-called "wise men" are bound to increase the embarrassment of the Government here, amid charges that it is not making its proper contribution to efforts to get world trade into better balance, and reduce the huge trade and current account deficits of the US.

Explainer this week Mr David Mulford, Assistant US Treasury Secretary, accused Bonn of not doing enough to bring down the value of the dollar.

Yesterday's report states that the overvalued US currency has been a key factor—though not the only one—behind the West German trade surplus, which the "wise men" expect to rise from this year's record DM 76bn (£20bn) to DM 83bn in 1986.

Admittedly this is less than the DM 100bn trade surplus (and DM 50bn current surplus) for next year predicted by the country's leading economic research institutes. But yesterday's report points out, the DM 83bn still represents more than 4.5 per cent of West German gross domestic product.

But the "wise men" expect imports, at 6 per cent, to grow more rapidly than exports, likely to climb only 4.5 per cent next year.

THE LEX COLUMN

A licence to print frocks

price of residential property on Oxford Circus should soar.

Mecca

As a way of rewarding directors, the leveraged buy-out looks even better than the share option. Yesterday Grand Metropolitan put an end to the market's suspense by announcing that it was indeed selling Mecca Leisure and Warner Holidays to their incumbent management for £95m. The four directors of the new company are paying £500,000 for what amounts to 10 per cent of an equity base which is valued at £40m. Such incentives are apparently common in buy-outs at the moment but, for a company which plans to be hitting the stock market next year, the rewards do seem rather to outweigh the risks.

Not that anyone is likely to begrudge the directors their good fortune. Grand Met is selling a non-core business at a premium of almost 50 per cent to tangible net worth and should as a result see its year-end net debt/equity ratio drop just below 50 per cent. The institutions, meanwhile, are receiving an opportunity to expand their portfolios in the fashionable leisure sector and on an earnings multiple well above that commanded by First Leisure and Pleasureama. Mecca's bingo halls and holiday centres (formerly known as holiday camps) are not exactly trendsetters in the leisure field but the company has been successful so far in directing new investment towards the growth areas.

Takeover moratorium

The prize for the most eccentric idea of the week goes to W. Greenwell, which suggested yesterday that a two-year moratorium should be imposed on takeovers of key UK financial services companies. Greenwell, which seemed happy enough to be taken over itself by Midland Bank, argues that being taken over would be an unwelcome distraction when so much real work has to be done before Big Bang.

This idea has interesting implications. If companies which specialise in advising other people on takeovers should themselves be immune from takeover, virtually any sector could argue for police protection. DCL, for example, should surely not be taken over at a time of such profound change in the whisky industry. Better still, DCL and Allied-Lyons and TI Group could form a consortium to buy an accepting house and then live happily ever after. Or at least until the big bang.

Share options

In old-fashioned bull markets the rich got richer and company directors carried on drawing their salaries. All that has changed with the advent of the executive share option, which must by now have replaced the company car as the UK's most attractive corporate perk. According to a recent study by stockbrokers Hoare Govett, over 90 per cent of the country's top 145 public companies now have executive option schemes in place. At a rough guess, directors currently have options over unissued equity with an open market value of £38m, more than one per cent of London's stock market capitalisation.

The presence of substantial share options has concentrated industrial minds most wonderfully during the current bull market and directors cannot now be blamed for cashing in a few chips. Last month directors and senior executives of Dees Corporation made a gross profit of more than £13m by exercising options and yesterday six executive directors of Burton Group followed suit, making roughly £3m before tax in the process. The options were almost all exercised at 46p a share and the new equity sold to the market at 60p. The sight of directors selling out, not surprisingly unsettled the share price, which closed 20p lower at 603p. But Burton shareholders need not have worried. Three directors are apparently selling shares in order to buy houses near the office. The explanation to do to the busi-

ness's founders. Benetton may not need the cash, but a rumoured multiple in the mid-teens no longer does justice to a business doubling its profits each year. One or the other is not quite right, and the betting in London is that Laura Ashley will go like a bomb.

For this, investors will get a company that has grown at a compound rate of 48 per cent at the pre-tax level since a spot of bother in 1980. Alone of the stores sector except possibly Habitat/Mothercare, Laura Ashley has taken a clearly labelled design concept overseas: what looked once like a peculiarly English *Naturism* is packing them in in the US, where sales growth is well ahead of the 26 per cent group average. At that rate, Laura Ashley has only to follow Benetton and pepper the US with stores to prolong its growth record on maintained margins until the next capital constraint.

Yet the expansion into continental Europe, and notably France, has not been a success. There may be a small trading profit to show this year but only an optimist would expect margins up to more than half group level in the short term. Equally, Laura Ashley is highly geared to dollar movements against its sterling cost base. The poor 1980 result, with its 6 per cent return on sales, was as much a result of a weak dollar as of inexperienced overtrading.

Wales is not exactly the Veneto; but Benetton's financial advisers today may have some explaining to do to the busi-

Index rose 13.8 to 1135.4



A fall in sterling interest rates is the latest idea to have captured the hearts and minds of the London equity market. Sterling's rise through the \$1.46 resistance point, firm oil prices and declining short rates across the Atlantic certainly allow room for a half point cut. And the Government Broker's decision to wheel out £1bn of stock in the short market, where there is precious little demand, suggested either that the authorities had bungled or that a cut in rates was coming. The equity market liked the latter explanation; the gilt market was less sure.

Laura Ashley

For a stores sector that has seen some undistinguished departures this year, the arrival of such a fresh new entrant as Laura Ashley can only be a blessing—if rather a limited one. The Ashleys have been as stingy with the public as they have been generous with their employees, and the absolute minimum 23 per cent of the equity is on offer. Institutions and English Roses will also have to pay for the privilege of ownership: a multiple of 23 times some rather conservative 1986 earnings at 135p places Laura Ashley on the top shelf with the Habitats and Hepworths of this world. The historic multiple of sales is second only to Burton.

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MARKETS

Caution intrudes as the good times keep rolling

THE MARKET continues to roar ahead with the FT 30 Share Index climbing past 1,100 on Wednesday and the All-Share Index sitting very close to 700 last night. With the throttle apparently jammed wide open it may seem a little perverse to talk about a reversal but while most analysts feel reasonably complacent about the market on a one year view the morning post still contains more poles of caution than optimism for the immediate future.

Given the indifferent market of the first nine months of the year, few fund managers with an eye on their performance tables are going to forego the market when it is running so strongly. So equities are being pushed along by good old weight of money and even with the Cable and Wireless sale and rights issue coming next month, raising around £900m, there is little evidence of institutional liquidity becoming a problem.

Nevertheless, on fundamental grounds the market looks dear. Ratings are at their highest level since the bull market of 13 years ago and prospects for corporate profitability next year are not the stuff to fuel a continued rise in share prices. Profits, overall, are unlikely to grow by much more than 10 per cent.

Fears that there might be a short term setback around the short term return to rattle fund managers sitting on billions to invest somewhere but other investors who can take a more aggressive view to their trading could well be tempted to take some profits — even if it does mean leaving a little bit for the next man.

Over in the drinks sector things are hyper-active. Elders IXL has popped out its offer document in support of 255p a share bid for Allied-Lyons, Scottish & Newcastle re-launched a bid for Matthew Brown, this time worth £125m, following Monopolies Commission clearance. Distillers announced some amazingly buoyant figures and Whitbread's interim profits proved to be a tonic for the whole sector.

The Elders offer is a non-starter at this level and may be just a shot to test the reaction of the Monopolies Commission though on grounds of competition it is hard to develop a case for reference. S&N's bid is a different brew altogether, designed to be a knockout punch and already declared final with an option for a rethink if another bidder materialises — a remote but not impossible eventuality given that the Commission appears to rule the other regional out of bounds for predatory national brewers.

S&N is offering 16 of its shares for every five Brown with a cash alternative of 540p. It seems a more than fair price on an exit multiple of 26 times

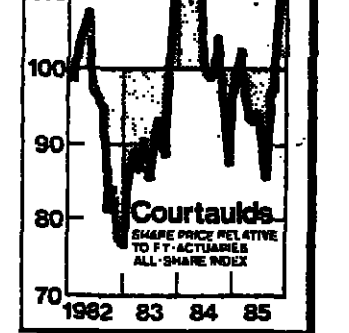
historic earnings and almost twice book worth. Before S&N's first bid last March Brown's market capitalisation was £73m. If the offer looks generous on earnings grounds S&N obviously has an eye on the assets — the

London

price values each Brown pub at around £300,000 a go, throwing in the breweries for nothing. That compares with £300,000 to build a new pub.

Though it is questionable whether S&N can make sufficient return on Brown's assets to justify the purchase, its half time figures, which came out with the bid, showed a 15 per cent increase in profits to £43m which is a fair performance given the poor summer, but assuming the full year comes out at £75m that is still no more than a 12 per cent net return on equity.

Anyway the bidder is not yet



assured of success even though it has amassed a stake of over 26 per cent. Brown's board is resisting and Whitbread Investment Trust and Britannic Assurance with over 9 per cent of the equity appear to have declared their opposition to S & N. Small shareholders might decide that it is time to sell in the market rather than run the risk of the bid being

beached. There is, of course, no bid on the table for Distillers as yet but James Gulliver's Argyle Group may well be in the market for it. It will be freed from the Take-over Panel's ruling to delay. And there is nothing like the threat of a bid to concentrate management's mind, so the market was well primed for some sparring figures from the whisky group this week.

Interim profits came out 54 per cent higher at £124.3m pre-tax and the dividend was lifted by 1p to 5.5p per share. The

figures were expected to be good, with or without Argyle breathing down Distillers' neck, but such an increase immediately drew a cynical response in the City.

Indeed there were a number of exceptional factors which boosted the first half growth rate. The comparable period was restricted by a dock strike that pushed shipments into the closing part of the year. Also the first quarter should have been particularly buoyant with orders ahead of price increases and again in September sales to the US market would have been stepped up ahead of a 5 per cent increase in the dollar price and the increase in US Federal Excise Tax from October 1.

Distillers also declared that it is joining the swelling ranks of companies able to take a pensions holiday while a change of accounting procedures manages to mist the figures.

So while the reported numbers look impressive the underlying growth rate is probably fairly nominal although the statement accompanying the figures was disparagingly thin on clues to what the real trends are. No doubt Distillers could work its way towards £280m pre-tax this year, and perhaps more, though it could take more than one year of good profits to redress the group's image in the City. If Mr Gulliver or someone else such as Seagram — is determined, Distillers' days as an independent company may be drawing to a close.

Courtaulds was able to join in the market's party with a record share price in the wake of its interim figures. Since the recovery in the year to March 1984, when pre-tax profits virtually doubled, the City has taken the view that Courtaulds could hardly believe in its own success. And if the directors seemed nervous about their ability to keep profits moving forward the market was not going to stick its neck out.

It is true that profits climbed by £10m last year but if acquisitions and currency gains are stripped free there was not much in the way of real growth. So the interim figures were approached with caution. It was, however, a very different Courtaulds that addressed its shareholders this week. Profits have only increased by 11 per cent to £80.3m but that is against a background of currencies moving against the group.

Far from being at the top of the cycle, the analysts are now suggesting that profits could rise to £140m this year and that Courtaulds is a reformed company with new-found stability. If the view is right a prospective p/e of under 7 looks far too low and the price could soon break through 200p.

Terry Garrett

Realism amid the euphoria

THE celebrations marking the 10th anniversary of the creation of the United States Market have brought a crop of claims about its successes that have at times verged on the euphoric.

Perhaps it is no coincidence that some of the most favourable comments have come from those involved in one way or another with the market's operation. It is interesting, then, to see the publication this week of an independent point of view, particularly since it takes into account the investor's side of the story as well as that of the companies which have been floated successfully.

The USM was created not with the principal object of making investors rich but to provide small and medium sized businesses with a market for their securities and, hence, easier access to capital. It could, nevertheless, hardly hope to succeed without holding out the prospect of reasonable returns for its backers.

Any considered analysis of the USM has to deal with the fact that, from the investor's point of view, its performance so far seems to have left something to be desired, both in absolute terms and in relation to the main market. The USM index stood at only 107.2 on the market's fifth anniversary, and the market relative index, which measures the performance of the USM index against the FT-Actuaries All-Share, was down from 100 to 48.

The reasons for the USM's under-performance are analysed in some detail in *Going Public*, a study of the USM and over-the-counter markets by Graham

Bannock, issued by The Economist Publications.

Like other observers, Bannock finds that a major influence on the USM has been its susceptibility to the poor performance of two sectors to which it has been particularly heavily weighted: oil and electronics. If the FT-Actuaries All-Share index is reorientated to reflect the USM index's sector weighting, he says, the discrepancy between the two diminishes.

Bannock goes on to cite two other factors: that many of the USM's first performers move on to the main market, and that the performance of the main

USM UNLISTED SECURITIES MARKET

market recently has reflected a period of exceptional profitability for Britain's bigger companies. But he says the most important factor is that in the early days of the USM, when p/e ratios were high, new issues tended to go to a larger audience when deals began.

Nowadays, he finds, the average premium over issue price is quite small once the initial flurry has died down. This movement towards greater realism also reflected in declining p/e ratios — is probably the main explanation for the disappointing performance of the USM index," he concludes.

This is not a startlingly original observation, but it is refreshing to find someone daring to utter the words "disappointing" and "USM" in the same breath. Not that Bannock is dismissing the market as a flop; in the long run, he says, USM stocks (if not the USM index) ought to perform much better than the main market. Sadly, he does not elaborate on this apparent paradox.

Richard Tomkins

The Royal banks on expansion

ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND'S invasion of England is now well underway. From the end of September subsidiary Williams & Glyn's with 330 branches lost its separate identity and Royal's insignia can now be seen in many high streets south of the border.

When Royal announces results for the year to September 30 on Thursday, analysts are expecting £185m pre-tax profits, against £131m in 1984-85. Mr Charles Winter, the group chief executive, said recently that Royal saw itself as the "fifth force" in British banking, ranking after the four London clearing banks. It may have further details to give of the bank's expansion plans.

Further elaboration could also be made of the role to be played by merchant bankers Charterhouse, Japhet, acquired for £15m in January and contributing for the first time in the

closing half. Last month Royal merged Charterhouse with its subsidiary National Commercial and Glyn's to form Charterhouse Development.

Although Royal has a low exposure to Latin American debt, failures among smaller mining companies and casualties from the shipping recession should see the bank's bad debt provisions rising to over £50m — against £38.5m last year.

The market was warned to expect poor interim results from ROYAL BANK INTER-NATIONAL by the group's chairman in his gloomy statement to the AGM. So City profit expectations for the six months to September have been trimmed to £85m pre-tax, compared with £84.4m in the same period of 1984.

The group's European tobacco interests have not performed strongly. Martin Brinkman, Germany's fifth largest cigarette maker, has been recovering slowly from last year's expensive rationalisation scheme. Recent price rises will have helped margins and manufacturers' receipts, however.

In the UK, Rothmans has

been losing share in a shrinking market. The 430 redundancies announced in September, following the closure of the Basildon plant last year, both are part of a major rationalisation programme which will prove expensive in the short term.

However, results recently announced from Canada were not as bad as once feared. Carling

Results due next week

O'Keefe, the brewing subsidiary, should contribute £5m (down from the £24.5m in the same period of 1984 but an improvement on the loss of £15.2m in the second half of last year) and now have the worst of the write-offs behind it.

The bright side for Rothmans continues to be luxury goods. Dunhill Holdings, in which it has a 50.6 per cent stake, should contribute £1m — up from £550m. Associate Carier has also been singled out for praise.

Overall associates, led in growth terms by Malaysia,

should contribute £34m (£26.9m) with only the weak Australian dollar holding back a more dramatic rise.

REDLAND should have made £50m pre-tax profits in its first half to be reported on Thursday, against £48.7m last year.

The City will be eager for news on the situation in West Germany, where declining housing starts could be depressing the Braas subsidiary, and on the outlook for margins in the group's UK concrete roof materials business.

In the UK, building materials-related activities should be improving, thanks primarily to the strength of aggregates. Output is forecast as rising for both aggregates and bricks. The former spurred by some important road contracts and the latter by the steady growth in demands for higher-quality bricks.

The falling volume of brick tile sales in the UK should be made up for by the rise in prices and the coming on stream of the new Swatham works. Acquisitions should also boost profits in this sector.

Overseas, other than in Germany, the most important

Redland interests are in the US and Australia. In Australia, associate Monier is performing strongly although, given the weakness of the dollar, local gains will be hard put to overcome the translation effect. Redland Worth in the US will have benefited from the increased Federal spending on roads.

UNIGATE has its doubters but the sale of Bowyer has eliminated a loss maker and the much talked of milk war has not taken place. Pre-tax profits for the six months to September may turn out just a shade short of £30m, against £28.9m last time.

The virtues of the milk and meat mix are not sung by all and Mr John Clements, chairman and chief executive, is keen to point to the soundness of the group's acquisition of J. P. Wood, just when the poultry business appears to be picking up again. There could also be some news on whether Mr Clements intends to go on running the group himself or if a new managing director is to be appointed soon.

Over this year as a whole growth of 13 per cent is being looked for mainly coming from the non-milk area as dairy profits have been static for some time and now contribute just under half of the group's total profits.

Profits from Wincanton, contract vehicle hire and sales, should be rising again after a dull 1984-85. Clitpura's transport business is improving and the other parts of this subsidiary have shown fairly steady growth.

Company	Announcement date	Dividend (p)	Last year	This year
British Empire Sec.	Monday	0.2	0.7	0.2
Cardi Ind.	Monday	2.7	2.7	2.8
Crescent	Friday	—	0.7	—
Devenport Brewery	Thursday	3.6	5.4	3.6
Dunhill Holdings	Wednesday	1.0	1.4	1.1
Royal Bank of Scotland	Thursday	3.2	3.2	3.8
Scottish Investment Trust	Thursday	1.7	3.47	2.0
Arbuthnot Government Secs.	Friday	2.75	2.75	—
Bassett Foods	Tuesday	1.63	3.04	—
Buigh, A. F.	Wednesday	0.58	—	—
Century One Group	Friday	—	—	—
Chamberlain and Hill	Friday	1.4	2.1	—
Country Gentlemen's Association	Thursday	11.0	11.85	—
Crown House	Tuesday	2.75	4.25	—
Dunhill Holdings	Friday	0.6	1.0	—
Erskine House	Friday	0.6	—	—
Fashion and General Inv.	Tuesday	6.0	9.9	—
Freemore Foods Group	Wednesday	7.0	—	—
Johnson Mathew	Friday	1.1	—	—
Kitchen Robert Taylor	Tuesday	8.0	5.5	—
Klein-axe Holdings	Friday	1.0	4.0	—
Marshall Holdings	Monday	2.0	2.0	—
Murray Growth Trust	Tuesday	1.0	0.4	—
Pacific Investment Trust	Thursday	—	0.35	—
Penny and Giles Int.	Thursday	6.7	1.35	—
Saxa Technology	Friday	1.1	—	—
Scotch and Mercantile Inv.	Friday	3.5	10.4	—
Striving Group	Monday	0.4	0.85	—
T.P. Technology Int. Trust	Monday	0.5	—	—

INTEREST RATES: WHAT YOU GET FOR YOUR MONEY

	Quoted rate %	Compounded return for taxpayers at 30%	Frequency of payment	Tax (see notes)	Amount invested £	Withdrawals (days)
CLEARING BANK*						
Deposit account	5.75	5.83	4.58	3.33	half yearly	1
High interest cheque	8.25	8.51	6.69	4.86	quarterly	1
3-month term	7.81	8.04	6.32	4.59	quarterly	1
BUILDING SOCIETY*						
Ordinary share	7.00	7.12	5.60	4.07	half yearly	1
High interest access	8.75	8.75	6.88	5.00	yearly	1
90 day	9.50	9.73	7.64	5.56	half yearly	1
Premium	9.40	9.74	7.65	5.56	quarterly	1
NATIONAL SAVINGS						
Investment account	11.50	8.05	6.33	4.50	yearly	2
Income bonds	12.00	8.88	6.97	5.07	monthly	30
31st issue	7.85	7.85	7.85	7.85	not applicable	3
Yearly plan	8.19	8.19	8.19	8.19	not applicable	2
General extension	8.52	8.52	8.52	8.52	yearly	3
MONEY MARKET ACCOUNTS						
Money Market Trust	8.67	8.86	6.96	5.06	half yearly	1
Schroder Wagg	8.22	8.54	6.71	4.88	monthly	1
Provincial Trust	8.78	9.14	7.18	5.22	monthly	1
BRITISH GOVERNMENT STOCKS						
7.75% Treasury 1985-88	10.63	7.97	6.52	5.09	half yearly	4
10% Treasury 1990	10.72	7.75	6.14	4.55	half yearly	4
10.25% Exchequer 1993	10.50	7.64	5.95	4.28	half yearly	4
3% Treasury 1987	8.85	7.81	7.20	6.59	half yearly	4
3% Treasury 1989	8.42	7.55	7.03	6.50	half yearly	4
Index-linked 1985	9.50	8.89	8.33	8.23	half yearly	2/4

* Lloyd's Bank. † Halifax. ‡ Held for five years. § Source: Phillips and Drew. ¶ Assumes 5 per cent inflation rate. 1 Paid after deduction of composite rate tax, credited as net of basic rate tax. 2 Paid gross. 3 Tax free. 4 Dividends paid after deduction of basic rate tax.

INDEX RISE SINCE JULY 25 1985

The following table lists the changes in the Ordinary Index and its constituents since July 25 to date. The FT-SE 100 Index is also shown.

Change				Chance			
	Price	since	1985		Price	since	1985
	y/day	25.7.85	High Low		y/day	25.7.85	High Low
FT Ord. Index	1,135.4	+ 224.4	1,135.4 911.0	Grand Met.	396	+101	405 277
ASDA-MFI	142	+ 8	166 130	GKN	274	+ 70	274 180
Allied-Lyons	282	+ 74	285 153	Hanson Trust	224	+ 36	232 177
BICC	240	+ 50	270 185	Hwkr. Siddeley	447	+ 84	456 360
BOC Group	324	+ 61	324 245	ICI	734	+ 74	880 630
BTR	396	+ 93	397 295	Imperial Group	218	+ 48	220 162
Beecham Group	313	- 2	390 283	Lucas Indus.	470	+182	478 246
Blue Circle Inds.	593	+ 63	603 468	Mks. & Spencer	190	+ 51	192 115
Boots	255	+ 76	255 162	NatWest. Bank	718	+ 40	720 568
Brit. Petroleum	605	+ 95	605 473	P & O	433	+ 75	440 304
Brit. Telecom	244	+ 25	247 183	Plessey	142	+ 4	312 116
Cadby Schwps.	147	+ 2	176 131	Tate & Lyle	540	+ 87	548 417
Courtaulds	183	+ 60	185 122	Thorn EMI	419	+100	484 300
Distillers	485	+ 225	503 370	Trusthse. Forte	162	+ 42	162 119
General Electric	186	+ 18	220 150	Vickers	315	+ 73	342 212
Glaxo	115	+ 3	115 110	FT-SE 100 Ind.	1,451.0	+229.3	1,451.0 1,206.1

* Assumed fully-paid price.

* Assumed fully-paid price.

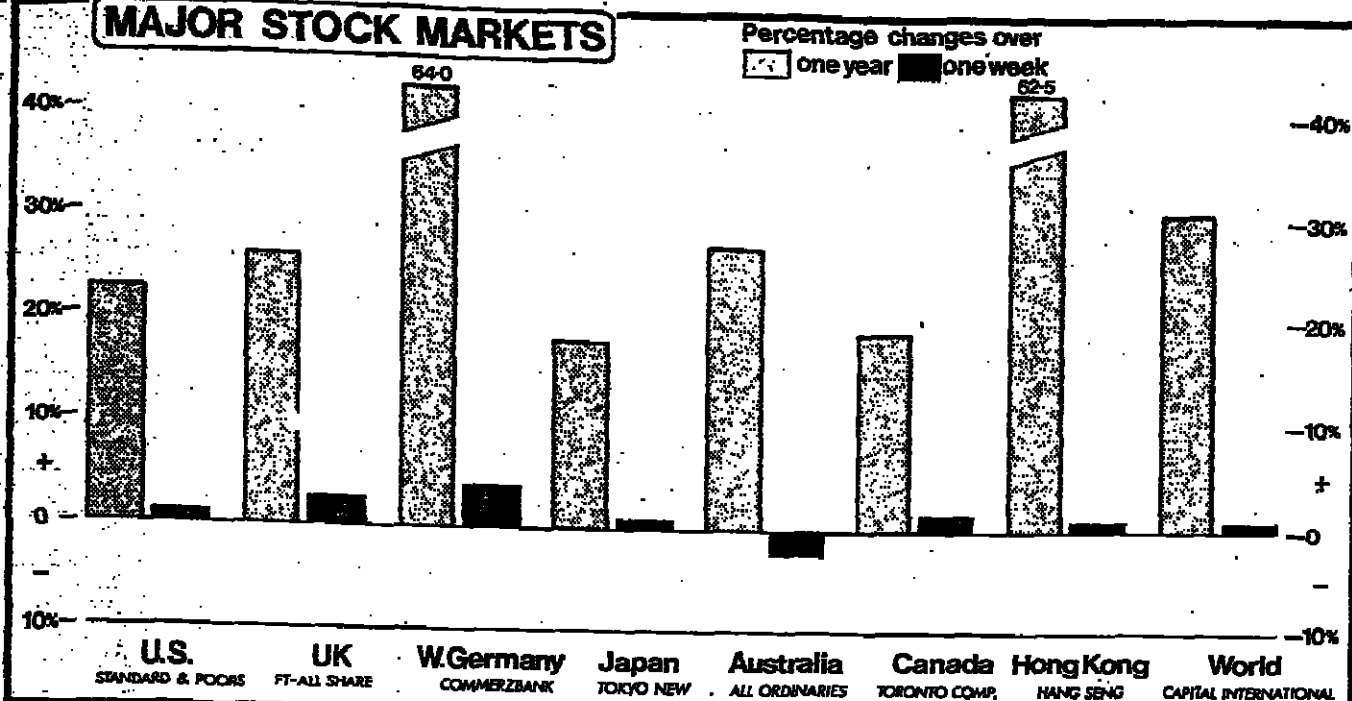
COMPANY NEWS SUMMARY

TAKE-OVER BIDS AND DEALS

Company bid for	Value of bid per share**	Market price**	Price of bid before bid	Value of bid before bid**	Blender
Prices in pence unless otherwise indicated.					
Abbey	97½	114	90	18.86	French Kler
Allied-Lyons	255*	292	275	17.34bn	Elder IXL
Arlington Motor	234*	225	187½	10.50	Unigate
Britannia Arrow	133½	148	131	200.04	Graham's Peak
Brook St Bureau	184	170	162	18.02	Blue Arrow
Brown (Matthew)	614½	563	540	138.64	Seot & Newcastle
Clay (Richard)	211	209	164	18.96	St Ives
Cole Group	360*	295	240	7.83	Low & Bazar
Dew (George)	102½	108	92	8.16	Brenner
Drayton Prem Inv	500*	520	440	151.52	NCD Press Fund
Dunfry Bitumastic	57½	56	56	9.37	British Tar Prod
Dunfry Bitumastic	501	56	47	5.00	Kalon Group
French Kler	236	256	224	116.21	Beazer (C. H.)
Maynards	387	420	335	18.95	Ward White
Owen Owen	407½	503	490	47.50	Ward White
Pearce (C. H.)	694½	675	725	26.19	Crest Nicholson
Pyke (Hilary)	404	380	348	15.63	Hilldown Hlds
Sangers Photo	40½	103	39	3.04	Mr J. Pearce
Security Centres†	123½	144	100	21.17	Automated Security
SGS Group	275	257	226	116.91	BET
Sompotex	381½	168	27	0.79	Dessau N. Wray & C. Stachow
Spear & Jackson	240	254	168	13.59	Neill (James)
Sparrow (G. W.)	734	78	48	7.26	BET
Stewart Plastics	150	183	112	94.10	Bund
Sunleigh Elect	71	7	7½†	1.72	Godwin Warren
Telefusion†	55½	50	34	26.11	Electronic Reads
Towngate Sees	32½	37	37	1.97	Millbank Dev
United Parcels	155	154	173	99.01	Banzl
Walker & Homer	22	20	164	2.84	Hilldown
Winstate Prom Inv	129½	125	105	17.95	Trifford Park Es

MARKETS

MAJOR STOCK MARKETS



The modern miracle of survival

IT WAS not only politicians and their supporters who were relieved when last week's extraordinary government crisis in Israel was brought to an end, however temporary. In the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, the signs of relief were audible as far as the Yeminite street market and the great synagogue.

When Shimon Peres, the premier, and Ariel Sharon, his recalcitrant Trade and Industry Minister, first locked horns, shares traders and their customers were aghast, though scarcely shocked. The austerity programme on which the coalition accord was founded was in peril of its life, and shares, predictably fell.

"Some people," he says, "have argued that we should suspend the Stock Exchange for a while and wait for better times. I say no. We have no alternative but to go on. The exchange has a future. Investors here don't realise that we are keeping a principle alive."

Fortunately, the steadfastness of Mr Heth is reflected in Tel Aviv's continuing activity. It may have bad weeks (when did it last have a good week?) but the inevitable refrain, but the exchange remains in business, in spanking new premises, and still offers the prudent investor a real rate of return.

Ironically, on the day when the coalition crisis was bursting, the exchange was observing the 50th anniversary of securities trading in Israel. Celebrating would be too strong a word. Speeches at a reception in the Hilton Hotel were muted. Every one present was aware that, at the other end of town, investors had their eyes on Jerusalem. Cold water flowed like champagne.

A few figures: the general share index this week hovered around the 265 mark, based on a January opening figure of 100. This appears impressive until it is recalled that inflation (expected to end the year at 180 per cent) reduces the real rise, in dollar terms, to about a quarter of the apparent increase.

A major shortcoming now, according to Mr Heth, is that the primary market is almost non-existent. The total volume of business, both on and off the floor, is averaging between \$3m and \$5m a day, representing a sharp decline from the daily total of more than \$70m in 1982, the peak of the boom. Although there are now 270 companies quoted on the exchange, against 80 in 1978, the worry is that no new listings have been published this year, compared with 78 in 1982 alone and 11 in 1984.

Bank shares, formerly a mainstay of the market, are still important in trading, but following the government's bail-out of most of the commercial banks in 1983—are now sold

fering the over-the-counter market in New York, where most of the potential funding is located. Manufacturing industry is grossly under-represented on the exchange because of the non-inclusion of companies operating under the banner of Histadrut, the semi-state-trade union confederation. The biggest company with available shares is the Dead Sea Works, a public subsidiary of the state-owned Israel Chemicals. DSW is flourishing.

So long as inflation remains a real problem, alternative investments are bound to be preferred to the stock market, and most money these days goes into indexed bonds, saving schemes and retirement funds. The great bulk of Israeli investment portfolios are now based on Government or Government-backed liabilities. There is trading in short-term bonds, but this market is dominated by the Bank of Israel, operating under its own rules.

Shares in many other companies are not even trading at the moment. Some are under suspension. ATA textiles, once mighty, is a case in point. Bankruptcies are also a continuing problem: Kopel Tours and MAOF Travel are among the more prominent recent failures. Overall, the number of Israeli companies in financial difficulties rose in October by 13 per cent, to an official total of 1,332.

Walter Ellis

Onward to 1500

THE BARRIER that Wall Street had begun to erect around the 1,450 mark on the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell this week as though it had never existed. On Thursday, indeed, buying power was so strong, as trading volume shot up to 150m shares, that the index easily moved through 1,480 on the day, while the Standard & Poor's 500 topped 200 for the first time to settle for the day at 201.43. With the market in its present mood, traders are beginning to consider the 1,500 level on the Dow as a surmountable hurdle.

It may be that some investors this week have been encouraged by the sight of President Reagan suppressing his obsession with the evil empire in favour of a rapprochement with the Soviet Union, and the possibility of political peace on another front—the burning question of the U.S. budget deficit—has certainly played a part in improving market sentiment. But analysts have little doubt that the main driving force behind the continuing power behind the equity market is the downward trend in long-term interest rates and the equally steady deterioration of the dollar on the foreign exchange markets.

The more relaxed tone in the credit markets was amply demonstrated this week by two features. First, they swallowed the Treasury Bill Note and bond offerings of \$46.5bn with ease. Second, the yield on the 30-year Treasury long bond plummeted down through the 10 per cent level for the first time in five years, reaching 9.92 per cent on Thursday. Only two months ago, the same long bond was trading at 10.60 per cent.

Similarly, the dollar has eased yet further this week, touching 1200 at one point on Thursday and falling to DM 2.58. The leadership given by interest rates inevitably has helped certain sectors disproportionately. Banks, for example, have remained particularly strong this week, on the argument that the cost of their funds is falling faster than their lending rates. Utility stocks also have been active, moving ahead vigorously on Thursday, although they are still below their record heights touched in July.

Wall Street

On the dollar-related front, companies with broad exposure in international markets—such as those in the pharmaceutical sector—have remained strong this week, while the rally has begun to wash over into the recently less popular area of high technology stocks. Indeed, the share price of IBM, regarded as the bellwether for the high-tech sector, broke through \$140 this week for the first time ever, easily exceeding its previous high of \$135.

At this level, IBM is on an historic price-earnings ratio of 14, whereas a year ago it was trading at \$121 on a p/e of 12. Indeed, the present rally, which has carried the Dow Jones index up by 180 points since the third week in September, is beginning to push the market to multiples which many analysts do not believe are sustainable. The p/e ratio on the prospective earnings of the S and P 500 companies next year, for example, is now standing at around 12, according to several Wall Street estimates. That sort of rating has not been seen since the mid-1970s, except during the catastrophic earnings slump in 1982, leading to questions of whether the multiple can be justified at a time of myriad threats to earnings—not least the possible return

of inflation, and the pressures that could be exerted on the financial system if the budget and trade deficits are not brought under control. For the time being, the market is choosing to ignore these dangers and stress instead the positive elements in the economic scene. And, of course, investors are continuing to take advantage of the extraordinarily vigorous phase of corporate restructuring. Takeover activity has continued to affect share prices in an uncertain manner this week, even though there was no large-scale bid.

Household International shares, for example, fell sharply when the company won a precedent-setting court case to keep a new "poison pill" takeover defence, which will make it less vulnerable to predators. Texaco stock also was hit hard when a Texas court awarded \$10.5bn of damages against it for persuading Getty Oil to renounce a prior deal with Pennzoil. The award will be reduced or eliminated, lawyers believe, but it would take a brave man to decide what the final outcome will be.

Terry Dodsworth

OFS in a tangle

people and capable of producing around 113 tonnes of gold a year—far bigger than any existing gold operation anywhere in the world. It would make available the ore held in pillars: large-scale working would be more efficient and flexible; mine lives would be extended; and shareholders should get more in dividends. There are not any special tax advantages.

These mines were developed in the 1960s and now are past their prime, but they still contain big reserves of ore holding about 2,500 tonnes of gold—more than the entire production of the non-communist world over the past couple of years. The gold content of the ore is about 4.5 grammes to 6 grammes per tonne of ore, which is not all that exciting against the costs of working deep-level mines. Furthermore, a lot of it is locked up in the "pillars" that mark the boundaries of these adjoining mines. So, the plan is to work the whole area as one huge operation, employing over 100,000

Steyn which (unnecessarily?) is to change its name to the long-winded Free State Consolidated Gold Mines, mercifully to be known more simply as "Freegold." It will control the enlarged mining operation and take over Free State Gold, President Brand and Western Holdings. The second company is a newcomer to be called Orange Free State Investments ("Ofsil"). It will be a holding company owning not less than 50 per cent of Freegold. Then, we have the number three company, the existing Welkom, which will change its name to Welkom Gold Holdings and which will hold shares in both Ofsil and Freegold. Of course, it would have been much simpler if the whole shooting match had been put into a single new company, shares of which could have been exchanged for those of the other existing companies. That, however, would have hit those institutional investors who are not allowed to have more than 5 per cent of their money invested in shares of any one company; at present, they may well have this maximum

holding in two or more of the existing companies. It is this aspect that makes the OFS merger scheme so complicated, notably in the various options offered for shareholders to switch from one share into another. For the man in the street, however, the terms are reasonably straightforward and the alternatives offered are ignored. On the basis of every 100 shares now owned in the various companies, the terms work out thus: Free State Gold holders get 173 Freegold and 24 Ofsil; President Brand holders get 133 Freegold and 19 Ofsil; President Steyn get 148 Freegold and 20 Ofsil; Western Holdings get 100 Ofsil; and Welkom get a straight 100 in the new Welkom Gold Holdings. This simplified version of what is proposed is, as I have said, for the benefit of the small shareholder who might otherwise have difficulties in digesting the full terms with his eggs and bacon this morning. Investment analysts will be making their computers work overtime in order to come up with the full import of the proposals before dealings are resumed in the companies concerned. But then, analysts are paid for this sort of thing.

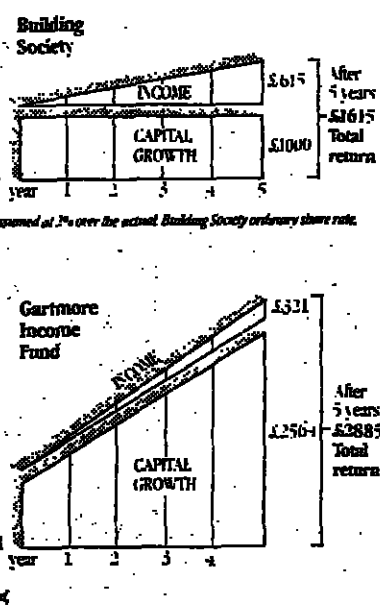
Kenneth Marston

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At the Annual General Meeting held on the 21st November 1985, the Chairman, Mr. Peter Galliford, said:-

"The encouraging start to the current year's trading referred to in the preliminary statement issued early in October has continued."

"Our contracting companies, in particular, are maintaining the satisfactory performance re-established last year."

Copies of the 1985 Report and Accounts may be obtained from the Secretary, Galliford plc, Wolsey, Hinckley, Leicestershire, LE10 3JD.

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A house for 1% deposit

LEGAL & GENERAL is test marketing a scheme under which house buyers can avoid paying a deposit normally provided at exchange of contracts. Under the plan the purchaser pays only 1 per cent of the purchase price to the insurance company, instead of the usual 10 per cent deposit, when contracts are exchanged. In turn, Legal & General provides the seller of the house with a Property Deposit Bond guaranteeing to pay if the buyer defaults.

The main attraction of the bond is that it can be used as an alternative to borrowing money at a time when cash is often short.

It is claimed that although the premium on the bond is non-refundable, unlike a deposit, the cost may well work out less than interest paid on a bridging loan without all the worry. The bond will not be available, however, to first-time house buyers.

At present Legal & General is confining the scheme solely to Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire, but if the test marketing proves successful, it is likely to be extended nationally.

New Lazard launch

LAZARDS, the London merchant bank, is launching its fifth Business Expansion Scheme fund, its second in this year. The Fifth Lazard Development Capital Fund calls for a minimum of £1.5m by January 15, with priority given to investors in the fourth Lazard fund.

The bank—part of the Pearson Group, which also owns the Financial Times—has built up a track record of investing in relatively low risk companies: 30 companies to date from the £14m raised on the first four funds.

It avoids investing in start-up companies, and has so far notched up only one failure: Trathens PLC, the Plymouth-based coach operator, which is in liquidation. It was a syndicated investment in tandem with the Britannia, Castleford and Quadrant BES funds. Lazard is charging a 7 per cent front-end fee, and

may negotiate share options on up to 10 per cent of the equity of the companies the fund invests in.

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"THIS is a real 'breakthrough,' something like the discovery of electricity or the atom bomb, and will change the face of Life Insurance into the next century and beyond." With hype like this it is hard to take Manulife's new flexible cover plan seriously.

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You can take out additional policies without evidence of health at certain ages, and also on marriage or the birth of legal adoption of a child.

Tuck in with a discount

MESSY EATERS can tuck into their Christmas dinners this year without fear of soiling their best bib and tucker. Sketchley is doubling its dry-cleaning discount to shareholders for the whole of January and February.

The move comes in celebration of the company's centenary, and gives shareholders 50 per cent off the cost of cleaning and shoe repairs at nearly 500 Sketchley branches.

The discount will not come cheap unless you are already one of the company's 12,000 shareholders. You need a minimum of 300 shares to qualify, and with Sketchley close to its peak at 416p a share you could end up paying £1,268 for the privilege.

Sketchley admits that January and February are its busiest trading months, so it is not being all that generous with the discount.

More generous is the scheme Sketchley is starting before Christmas to benefit Help the Aged and Dr Barnardo's. Take unwanted coats and children's outer clothing to a Sketchley branch, and they will clean and repair them free and give them to the charities.

NATIONAL MUTUAL LIFE plans to sidestep a debate about whether the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme—Serps—should be abolished: its Harvester company pension plan is claimed to work alongside Serps, or to replace it if Serps is abolished. It offers seven unit-linked funds to invest pension contributions in, and a with-profits fund.

Holidays on the ever-ever

WHILE you are working, the cost of a holiday can be met from earnings, especially if you are a shareholder. But will you still be able to afford those holidays once you have retired?

One objective in saving while still at work is to ensure that you will have enough money for the luxuries that make retirement more enjoyable.

A new scheme from the Leeds-based Carrosale Leisure, launched this week in conjunction with the life company FS Assurance, which is based in Glasgow, essentially offers the opportunity to take holidays while working and at the same time to save towards those holidays in retirement.

The scheme is called the Capital Life and Leisure Bond. You first put down a lump sum of £300. You then make monthly payments of £60 for a 10-year period. The lump sum, together with £15 of each monthly payment, goes to Carrosale. The remaining £45 of each monthly payment is invested in an FS Assurance Magnum policy—a 10-year with-profits endowment contract.

The money paid to Carrosale entitles the bondholder to a two-week holiday without any hotel accommodation costs. The maturity payment after 10 years on the endowment provides the cash for the holidays to continue for the rest of your life.

At present, Carrosale has arranged just one location for its holidays—the four star Grand Hotel Excelsior overlooking Valetta harbour in Malta.

If you take out this bond now you will be guaranteed a fortnight's holiday in Malta for each of the next 10 years from 1990. Carrosale is hoping to include two more hotels in Malta for 1991.

The accommodation at the Excelsior for two weeks costs £524 for a twin bed room. This compares with a payment of £480 under the bond in the first year and £180 for the next nine years.

The costs of the holiday to be borne by the bondholder are the air fare, a local service charge and spending money. Holders of the bond are members of the Carrosale Hospitality Club.

If the bondholder cannot take or afford the holiday in a particular year, then it can be sold to another person.

After 10 years, the endowment policy matures with a value estimated at £8,300 on current bonus rates. Bondholders have three choices:

- Take the full amount, in which case the holiday arrangement ceases.
- Code half the maturity value to Carrosale for guaranteed two

week holidays each year for the rest of your life.

● Surrender the whole value for a guaranteed four-week holiday every year.

FS Assurance may be the smallest of the British life companies, but it has a reputation as one of the pillars of the establishment.

It is not legally involved in the holiday arrangements. But since it has given its name to the scheme and is marketing it through its intermediary network, it has a strong moral obligation to ensure that everything is above board. It claims to have checked out all the arrangements.

So what are the drawbacks? First, the time your holiday can be taken is not guaranteed. Carrosale hopes to control this problem by limiting the number of bonds sold to 75 per cent of the available accommodation over a year at present around 3,500.

Second, the choice of holiday is limited to Malta. Carrosale is negotiating for other holiday centres to broaden the scope of the scheme. Finally, the scheme would be more in holiday-makers' expectations than in their pockets.

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FINANCE & THE FAMILY

Mortgages

Home and dry on pension

THE MOST tax efficient means of repaying a mortgage is to use a pension contract. Pension mortgages, as such schemes are known, have expanded dramatically since the loss of Life Assurance Premium Relief in the 1984 Budget.

Pension mortgages for the self-employed have been highly developed by building societies and banks, and many special schemes are available for executives. But there seems to be nothing available for the rank and file employee, even top management, using company pension scheme facilities.

At first sight this seems illogical. The pension mortgage operates on an interest only basis during the term of the mortgage, with repayment from the proceeds of a pension contract.

Employees in company schemes usually have the right to commute part of their pension for a tax-free lump sum up to a maximum of 14 times earnings at retirement after 20 years service. So the company scheme, like the self-employed or executive pension contract, provides cash from which to repay a mortgage.

In addition, most company schemes have in-built life cover. Yet the building societies, will not entertain mortgages based on employee pension schemes. Their argument is that the employee has less control over his affairs than does the self-employed—a situation that may be more illusory than real.

A more likely reason is that intermediaries are not going to push pension mortgages for employees because there is little in it for them, unlike the self-employed where there is a pension contract involving useful commission payments. As a result employees as a whole are not aware that they could use their pension to repay a mortgage.

However, the evolutionary process cannot be held back indefinitely. Certain institutions are exploring the possibility of pension mortgages for employees and at least one, merchant bankers Kleinwort Benson, has developed a scheme based on Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVCs).

AVCs are a facility given to employees to boost their benefits from the main company pension schemes. The Inland Revenue will allow employees to make a total contribution of 15 per cent of earnings, less the contribution to the main company scheme. The employee gets tax relief at his top rate, and investment is in a tax-free fund.

Under the AVC scheme, Kleinwort Benson will lend up to 75 per cent of the first £100,000 value of the house; 65 per cent of the second £100,000; and 60 per cent thereafter. Loans are limited, however, to 21 times the principal borrower's gross annual income and there is a minimum of £40,000. So it is a somewhat upmarket scheme.

Interest currently 13 per cent on the mortgage is paid until

repayment as with any other pension mortgage. The borrower is required to take out an AVC contract to ensure that there will be sufficient cash at retirement to repay the mortgage.

Here the first complication sets in. The cash sum at retirement for employees depends not on the investment performance of the AVC (as it does with a self-employed pension plan) but on the employees earnings at retirement and his length of service.

Kleinwort Benson assesses both the anticipated earnings at retirement, by projecting current earnings on a growth assumption, and the expected proceeds of the AVC plan.

The use of an AVC contract not only provides business for the intermediary, it also ensures that the employee does not use up too much pension providing the lump sum.

Now there is a second complication. At present an individual employee cannot make his own AVC arrangements. AVC schemes are arranged by the trustees of the company pension scheme, either through a life company, a building society or invested in the main company scheme. The employee then has the opportunity of taking up the arrangement for himself.

Thus Kleinwort Benson is marketing its AVC mortgage scheme through life companies, talking to company pension managers and personnel directors. A master scheme is arranged within the company

which promotes details of the scheme to employees.

Employees who are interested then deal direct with Kleinwort Benson for an AVC mortgage, but the bank does not accept an initial approach direct from the employee.

The bank insists that separate life cover, assigned to the bank, must be taken out even though the company scheme has high inbuilt life cover. Kleinwort Benson wants the mortgage to be repaid automatically should the employee die before retirement.

However, employees in company schemes giving benefits at or near to the Inland Revenue maximum cannot take out AVCs. This applies particularly to public sector and some old-established private schemes. The Kleinwort Benson scheme is not available for them.

Indeed, the concept of interest-only mortgages is being developed at a rapid pace. Kleinwort Benson is also investigating the use of Section 32 buy-out annuities as part of the means of repaying a mortgage. From next year employees will have the right, on changing jobs, to take a transfer payment from their old scheme and buy an annuity with the money from a life company. Any inquiries should be made through the intermediary and not to Kleinwort Benson direct.

Eric Short



David Steen

Traded Options

Capturing the high ground

AS EVERY Stock Exchange index raced to record highs this week the traded option market also broke into new high ground. Over 67,000 contracts were traded during the first three days of the week and the market was set to smash the previous best week of 71,000 contracts traded in January.

Unlike the previous record, which was based almost entirely on activity in one stock—British Telecom—this week's activity has been broad-based. Buyers were looking for front-line stocks which were either takeover prospects or which were out-performing previous expectations.

The attraction of options on such stocks is the opportunity they provide to make substantial gains from a relatively small investment.

In the week up to November 20, for example, Courtaulds' share price rose 18 to 184p and Lomax was up 15 to 181p. These gains of almost 10 per cent can be contrasted with gains of 100 per cent in the traded option market over the same period.

Courtaulds, 160 calls for example, giving the buyer the right to buy Courtaulds stock at 160p at any time before January, were offered at 12p each on November 14. A week later the investor could sell that option for 24p.

Since option contracts are sold in blocks of 1,000 the single contract investment was £120 against a sale price of £240, before commission.

The increased volume of traded option business has also resulted in better prices being offered to buyers. When trades were thin jobbers tended to quote wide bid-offer spreads. A buy-sell spread on the premium of 20-24, for example, was common.

Earlier this week Courtaulds January 160 calls were being quoted at 24-25. By February 200 calls were 14 to 12, whereas three months ago 11-14 would not have been unexpected. A jobber at Smith Bros, the leading price-maker on the pitch, noted that these closer spreads resulted from the increase in volume activity.

Market officials are confident this recent burst of activity is

not an aberration. Pinchin Denny's David Steen, chairman of the SE options committee, noted that the surge in activity reflected "an increasing awareness by investors of the advantages and flexibility which traded options can provide."

"This is only a beginning," he added. "By this time next year I expect to see this market trading over 50,000 contracts a day."

Part of this increase will follow the introduction of new stocks. At present 33 stocks are quoted as traded option contracts.

Among these is Distillers which made a brisk start on Thursday. One of the sector's leading brokers bought an unprecedented high of 500 options for a client in an upsurge of hours of trading, despite high premiums. Distillers are regarded as a takeover prospect and call options offer an excellent way of making very substantial gains for comparatively little outlay in such circumstances.

The Stock Exchange says it intends to introduce at least one new option contract per month in 1986. With big private issues such as Cable and Wireless and British Gas coming to the market the prospect of attracting more interest to this lucrative sector is good.

But one area remains disappointing. With the market

trading at record highs some brokers are puzzled by the lack of interest being shown by holders of large portfolios in the FTSE 100 index option.

Buying put options (which give an option to sell) would provide protection against a reversal in the market's current strength. Yet activity in this contract has lagged behind that in the single stock options.

Richard Verin, head of options trading at James Capel, explained this was partly due to continuing restrictions and tax problems for fund managers buying index puts. Also, said Mr Verin, "some fund managers find the market in the index option still too small to accommodate effective hedging, although several are buying puts in individual stocks ahead of a possible downturn in certain sectors."

John Parry

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A wholly-owned subsidiary of the Bank of Scotland Group

FINANCE & THE FAMILY

Christmas giving

The lolly and the ivy



THERE ARE a number of ways of giving one-off financial presents for Christmas should you not want to make the long-term commitment of a gift by covenant. A gift cheque may be the answer but the chances are that you would prefer that any money you give is not simply spending money. Some form of savings or investment scheme in the child's name may have more appeal.

When it comes to choosing a savings scheme the major consideration will be tax. Unless you are giving to a particularly well-off child who is liable to tax, you should look for investments which are either free of tax or pay interest gross. These include National Savings products or gifts on the National Savings Stock Register which can be bought through Post Offices. This allows you to take advantage of the £2,000 which any single person, including a child, is allowed to receive free of tax each year.

The most heavily promoted children's savings schemes are those operated by banks and building societies. But unless your sole concern is to encourage children to open their first bank or building society account, or their parents pay only basic rate tax, they are generally not the best savings vehicle because they deduct tax from interest payments at a composite rate.

The best return from the banks is on Lloyds Black Horse Young Saver Account which pays 8.0 per cent net against 7.75 per cent on Midland's Griffin Saver. 7.5 per cent on NatWest's Piggy bank and On-line (for older children) accounts, and 7.25 per cent on Barclay's Supersaver.

The TSB pays 7.25 per cent on its Jeans Scheme account for 7 to 14 year olds but encourages regular saving by giving free gifts such as calculators or clocks at the end of the year if they save monthly.

Children are getting wise to giveaways or gimmicks and have become adept at opening and closing bank accounts once they've picked up the free gifts. They then keep their money in the account which pays most, so if you intend to open an account on their behalf go for one combining high interest with incentives to save.

It is also worth taking a close look at goodies on offer as you may have to pay for the starter packs—£1 in the case of the Anglia Building Society, the same for NatWest's Piggy Bank account and £2 for its On Line account. For instance, if you want to encourage saving by giving a bank money box Barclays will charge £1.

The best return from building societies is offered by Leeds Permanent which pays 8.0 per cent net against the first £500. In spite of its previous shunning of gimmicks the Leeds is running a Christmas pop quiz competition with 1,000 Sony Walkmans as prizes. The Anglia pays 7.75 per cent on its Top Saver account but this goes up to 8.25 per cent as a result of birthday bonuses of 0.5 per cent each year. The Yorkshire also emphasises continued saving,

paying the ordinary share rate initially but giving bonuses of £2.50 when the account reaches £50, £100, £250 and £500.

Most of the other major societies also operate children's accounts but offer giveaways and gimmicks rather than financial incentives.

There are much more financially attractive investment vehicles for children than those offered by banks or building societies. National Savings Investment accounts, and Deposit Bonds all pay interest gross. Current returns are 11.5 per cent and 12 per cent respectively. You need only £5 to open an investment account and can make withdrawals if you give

one month's notice. You have to make an initial investment of £100 to buy a deposit bond and the same amount is required to make any further investments. The child will be restricted to withdrawing £50 minimum and have to give three months notice.

National Savings Income Bonds and the new Index Linked Bond, also pay interest gross but are inappropriate unless the aim is to use the investment to provide regular income or pocket money. National Savings Certificates, the current 31st issue paying 7.85 per cent after tax, are only suitable for wealthy children paying higher rate income tax.

If you and/or the child have a gambling streak then Premium Bonds may be the answer. Children can't hold them until they are 16 but you can buy them on their behalf at banks or post offices. They are sold in £1 units though the minimum purchase is £5. More than 150,000 prizes are paid each month ranging from a jackpot of £250,000 down to £50. Each weekend there is one prize of £100,000, one of £50,000 and one of £25,000. But the chances of winning a prize are fairly remote with a small holding.

Non-income investments such as Premium Bonds, stamps and coins are suitable presents for parents to give their own children. Investments which produce income are not, since they will be included with the parents' income and taxed accordingly. Bank, building society or National Savings accounts would also be suitable for your own children if you are only a basic rate taxpayer.

High coupon gifts, which take advantage of children's personal

tax allowance, also offer attractive returns. If on the National Savings Stock Register and bought through a Post Office they pay interest gross which avoids the usual bother of having to reclaim tax deducted at source. Available stocks on the Register include 15.50 per cent Treasury Stock 1988, 15.25 per cent Treasury Stock 1992 and 14.5 per cent Treasury Stock 1994. There is the further advantage that there is no minimum investment requirement through the register.

The more adventurous may feel that the stockmarket the better. And since more unit trust groups have introduced monthly savings plans, these have become popular as Christmas gifts with the added fun that the child can follow the investments' progress in the FT or other financial pages.

Foreign and Colonial even offers such a gift scheme on its Capital Fund, which is an international growth fund. As little as £20 can be invested on a child's behalf to buy units in the fund.

Other unit trusts groups, such as Barclays, Unicorn, Garmore, M & G and Save and Prosper operate similar schemes to Foreign and Colonial. Usually the minimum initial and repeat investments £20 but it is not essential to make regular additional payments. However, those management groups which allow regular contributions do not do so on all their funds so the investment choice is limited. Usually the minimum investment for those without regular savings schemes is £500. All unit trusts stress the covenant route discussed last week as the best option.

Unit trust dividends are not paid gross but the tax deducted at source can be reclaimed for a none tax-paying child so most children get a tax-free return. Unlike gifts, however, unit trust holdings are subject to capital gains tax when sold.

Margaret Hughes

The Gresham Trust Business Expansion Fund 1985/86

(A Fund approved by the Inland Revenue under the terms of the Finance Act 1980)

Following the successful launch of The Gresham Trust Business Expansion Fund 1984/85, announced in November 1984, which raised approximately £1.72m and was fully invested by 5th April 1985, Gresham Trust has now launched a fund for the tax year 1985/86 and has extended the time for receipt of applications.

WHAT THE FUND OFFERS INVESTORS:

- The opportunity to invest in a diversified portfolio of unquoted ordinary shares.
- The benefit of Gresham's long experience of investment in unquoted companies and the investment opportunities made available to Gresham because of its established reputation.
- Tax relief at the highest marginal rate of tax and the chance of a high after tax return.

Applications, which will be dealt with in strict order of receipt, should reach Gresham Trust not later than 31st December 1985. The right is reserved to close the fund at any time prior to that date.

The minimum investment is £2,000; maximum £40,000.

For a copy of the Memorandum and application form, please return the completed coupon. Participants should recognise that investment in unquoted companies carries a high risk as well as the chance of high rewards. Before deciding to proceed with an application, individuals should take financial

advice taking account of the risks involved and their own financial circumstances and tax position.

This advertisement does not constitute an invitation to participate in the Fund; subscriptions must be made to the managers, Gresham Trust p.l.c., and will only be accepted on the terms and conditions set out in the Memorandum.

To: Gresham Trust p.l.c., Barrington House, Gresham Street, London EC2V 7HE (Telephone: 01-606 6474) Please send me a copy of the Memorandum.

Name _____ Address _____

Gresham Trust p.l.c.

FT 23.11

Share option scheme

A taste for every body

WHEN A company comes to a Stock Exchange listing, the main beneficiaries are expected to be its original owners. Employees too, may gain if the listing is accompanied by a scheme to give them priority in applying for shares.

Laura Ashley, the fashion and textile group whose offer for sale was announced this week, has come up with a four-legged scheme designed to meet the requirements of its employees—many of them 19 or 20 year old women with no previous experience of share buying.

The scheme starts with a gift of £50 worth of shares to all employees who have been with Laura Ashley for at least the last seven months. The second leg is a matching offer, where employees receive between one and four free shares for each share they buy in the issue for themselves.

"The free offer gives everyone a taste," says Laurie Brennan, chief executive of New Bridge Street Consultants, the employee share specialists who designed the Laura Ashley scheme. "The matching offer means the staff have to put up their own money."

Under both these offers the shares will be put into a special trust. Employees may not sell them or take them out of the trust for two years.

Part of the reason for the trust is to save tax. If the shares are held in trust for more than

five years employees will not have to pay income tax on the value of the free shares they have received. But John Winter, deputy managing director of Laura Ashley, admits the tax benefits were secondary to the desire to encourage not to sell their shares straight away. "We wanted a holding period anyway," he says.

The matching offer is intended to give greater benefits to those who have been with the company for longest, and are most senior. The offer is scaled so that if you joined in 1984 and earn less than £12,000, you will receive one share free for each share you buy; but it rises to 4:1 for those who have been with Laura Ashley for ten years or more and earn over £8,000. Most employees fall in the 1:1 category.

Employees are limited to a maximum of £1,200 worth of free shares from the matching offer. If they want any more, they must pay the full rate, but can receive priority over ordinary applications in the issue.

Laurie Brennan, whose company also handled the British Telecom employee share scheme, learnt from experience that a few employees might borrow tens of thousands of pounds to apply for priority shares, which could then be sold on immediately at a profit. For Laura Ashley, therefore, a limit of £5,000 has been placed on

the priority offer and matching offer taken together.

Anyone wanting to apply for more than £5,000 of shares will have to take their chances in the general issue.

The last leg of the Laura Ashley scheme is a savings plan, aimed particularly at those who do not have enough money immediately available to buy as many shares as they may want.

It is a standard share options savings plan to be found in many companies, not just those coming to the Stock Exchange. You save between £10 and £100 a month for five years in a special account with the Halifax Building Society. At the end of the five years you receive a tax-free interest payment. You may use the total saved for any purpose you wish, but you are offered the chance to buy Laura Ashley shares at a price 10 per cent below this year's issue price.

Privatisations like British Telecom have greatly extended public knowledge of the share market.

Questions have focused on three main areas: what will the shares be worth; what are the tax implications; and how can shares be transferred to families? This suggests that a good proportion of the company's workforce will be joining the share-owning community.

George Graham

New from Eagle Star

Unit trusts you can really understand and appreciate.

Most people recognise that unit trusts have proved to be a highly rewarding form of investment. But, recent research shows only some 5% of the population invests in them.

Why is that? Quite simply, it's because so many of us find unit trusts confusing. First, there's the unfamiliar terminology—words like "bid price" and "offer price." Then there's the question of which one to choose. They all sound promising—but some are clearly riskier than others. And how can you gauge how much risk is involved?

Fortunately, all that confusion is now a thing of the past. Because Eagle Star, one of the country's largest financial institutions, has introduced a new, simple, intelligible—and highly attractive—range of unit trust investments. All presented in straightforward, everyday language that we can all understand.

The new—and unique—Rainbow approach

However well chosen its shareholdings—and however well managed it is—every unit trust carries a certain degree of risk. Generally speaking, the lower the risk, the lower the likelihood of substantial investment returns. And, correspondingly, the higher the risk, the greater the chance of achieving really big gains.



All Eagle Star unit trusts have therefore been colour-coded to tell you the degree of risk—and potential reward—that they carry.

For this purpose, we have used the colours of the rainbow as a scale—ranging from violet as the most secure, to red as the most adventurous.

A team of experts to manage your money

When you invest in an Eagle Star Unit Trust, you will be entrusting your money to the experienced hands of Eagle Star's team of full-time professionals—who manage total worldwide assets of more than £5,500 million. They will constantly monitor the performance of the Trust's holdings and take whatever action they believe will produce the best possible return for investors.

You can cash-in or add to your investment at any time

Although you should regard your investment as a medium to long term holding, you can sell some or all of your units whenever you wish.

You can also increase your investment (by £200 or more) whenever you wish.

Note: As with any investment of this nature, the price of units—and the income from them—must be expected to fall from time to time, as well as rise.

To find out more, simply return the coupon (no stamp is required), or speak to your usual investment advisor. Alternatively contact your local Eagle Star office.

To: Eagle Star Group (LC43) FREEPOST, Bath Road, Cheltenham GL53 3BR. I am interested in your new, simple approach to unit trust investment. Please send me full details of the unit trust(s) I have ticked below.

Name _____ Address _____

- Postcode _____
- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> European Trust | <input type="checkbox"/> UK Balanced Trust |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Far Eastern Trust | <input type="checkbox"/> UK Gift & Fixed Interest Trust |
| <input type="checkbox"/> North American Trust | <input type="checkbox"/> Please send details of your Share Exchange scheme |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> UK Growth Trust | |



BUSINESS EXPANSION SCHEME

Your fifth opportunity to invest with the leader

Lazard Brothers have launched their Fifth Development Capital Fund—the final fund in the 85/86 tax year—to enable investors to take advantage of further investment opportunities.

The Fund's investment policy and the tax concessions of the BES together provide an outstanding investment opportunity for higher rate taxpayers.

Three of the four previous Lazard

Development Capital Funds have been oversubscribed and if you intend to invest in the Fifth BES Fund during this tax year you should act without delay to avoid disappointment.

Total funds raised by Lazard Brothers under the BES now exceed £14 million—the largest amount by any manager of Approved BES Funds—and investments have been made in 30 companies.

THE ADVANTAGES OF INVESTING IN THE LAZARD DEVELOPMENT CAPITAL FUNDS ARE:

1. The continuing flow of high quality investment proposals received by the managers
2. The ability of the managers to select investments considered to possess both growth potential and security
3. The commercial experience of the managers
4. The managers' involvement in monitoring companies which is designed to reduce the risk of losses
5. The well balanced spread of investments
6. Long-term plans for realisation of investments

The application list has now opened and may be closed at any time, up to and including 15 January 1986, at the managers' discretion.

Lazard Brothers & Co., Limited

For a copy of the memorandum, on the basis of which alone applications can be made, please telephone Jane Lamont on 01-588 2721 or send this coupon to 21 Moorfields, London EC2P 2HT

Investment in unquoted companies carries higher risks as well as the chance of higher rewards.

The minimum subscription is £2,000 and the maximum subscription is £40,000.

To: Jane Lamont, Lazard Brothers & Co., Limited, 21 Moorfields, London EC2P 2HT Please send me a Memorandum on The Fifth Lazard Development Capital Fund

Name _____ Address _____

Postcode _____

Eagle Star Group

Eagle Star Unit Managers Limited Eagle Star House, Bath Road, Cheltenham, Glos GL53 7LQ. Telephone: 0242 521311

Understanding Reports and Accounts

For many shareholders, the only contact they maintain with the company in which they own a stake is through a glossy magazine containing the annual report and accounts. This magazine should tell you just how well or badly the company is performing.

Often, however, a great deal of really worthwhile information is tucked away at the back in accountants' jargon that is difficult for outsiders to understand. The purpose of this series by Jane Allen, a chartered accountant and lecturer, is to explain how you should read the annual accounts and report to cut through the jargon and get a clear picture of what is going on.



This will help you to decide whether to sell or retain the shareholding—or invest some more in the company.

When the accounts arrive, they usually make up a glossy parcel of information out of which may well fall further documents: invitations to the AGM; opportunities to vote in absentia by filling in a proxy card; perhaps details of shareholder special offers or incentives. The "cover looks good": open page one and there will be an index to the contents, plus perhaps some financial highlights. These are interesting extras but you should ignore them until you have read the full story contained in the back pages.

Shortly after the index, there will be the chairman's report. He will attempt to put into a clear, communicative style all the relevant information he feels shareholders need to know about the company and its activities during the year in question. Chairman's reports usually are well illustrated and put lucidly.

However, like estate agents selling a house, chairmen naturally concentrate on the good points of the year. Well worth reading for background information, the chairman's report does not tell you all you need to know about the company you own. To be better informed, you are going to have to turn to the financial information that appears later on.

To read a set of accounts effectively start by glancing through the directors' report to get some background information about the company. This should explain where and in which commodity the company trades. Turn to the chairman's statement and get some information about the sort of trading

Year the company has had. Then find and read the auditor's report; what has he to say about the company? Which pages of the report has he audited? It is after all, his legal duty to report to the shareholders and keep them informed as to how the company is trading.

Next, it will be essential to find out the rules under which the accounts have been drafted. Some of the rules are those applying to all companies; but there will always be a special set; find them in the Accounting Policies section.

Now the background information is complete, it is worthwhile turning to the accounts themselves. Try the Profit and Loss account first; this financial "history" book will tell how the company traded for the year it is reporting. It will have nothing to say about the future of course. Nor will much of its information make sense without reading the notes to the accounts at the same time.

Once all the information to be gained from the profit and loss account is collected it will be time to turn to the Balance Sheet. This is really a picture of the company and its assets and liabilities on the last day of its financial year. It will explain what the company owns and what it owes.

One really valuable document remains to be read; the Source and Application of Funds Statement. This is the document that explains where all the money came from in the year of trading, and how it was spent. It clarifies how much money remains in the business and how it has been put to use for the business.

Jane Allen

UNIT TRUST regular savings schemes are the unsung heroes of the investment world. Since the abolition of life assurance premium relief (LAPR) in the 1984 Budget, they have succeeded in attracting more investors. Maximum Investment Plans (MIPs) as the best home for small-time savers paying tax at the basic rate. Such schemes are still largely ignored.

Yet, most obviously, they are much more flexible. MIPs involve contracts to save for five or 10 years, and carry penalties for early encashment. With unit trust savings schemes contributions as low as £20 to £30 a month (only £10 in the case of Garmore, Midland and Barrington) can be altered, missed or discontinued at any time without loss other than the bid/offer spread on the units.

The unit trust plans also tend to be more tax-efficient, particularly if low-yielding growth funds are involved. Unlike the insurance funds, they pay no capital gains tax internally; they give investors the scope to escape tax liability by selling units to fill up their £5,000 annual allowance. That makes them the best buy for 30 per cent rate taxpayers—who will not have to pay further tax on their trust dividends—and anyone outside the capital gains tax lease.

Higher rate taxpayers, particularly those likely to face a gains tax bill, may be better off taking the insurance route. But they must be willing to save for at least seven and a half years in a "qualifying" policy if their eventual return is to be tax free. If the units are cashed in earlier, the whole profit—capital gain as well as rolled up income—will be liable to their marginal rate of tax.

Lastly, unit trust savings

plans pay considerably less in commission to the intermediaries selling them. With MIPs the insurance companies pay as much as 35 per cent of first year premiums to brokers and financial advisers. That means charges are heavily front-loaded, providing an extra disincentive to cashing in early. Your first few monthly payments disappear in expenses when they might be buying units which, since they are invested the longest, should produce the greatest growth.

Unit trusts, in contrast, deduct only 5 per cent of your contributions, passing on 3 per cent of this to agents. So more of your early money goes on units and less into the broker's pocket. Brown Shipley's scheme goes one further by avoiding intermediaries altogether, retaining the 3 per cent as bonus units to the investor.

Not surprisingly, unit trust savings plans have failed to catch on with professional advisers and intermediaries. As a result sales of these plans have been distinctly modest. Both M&G and Save & Prosper, the UK's two largest unit trust groups, say regular savings account for less than 5 per cent of new business. Regular savings are undersold, says S&P's Ken Emery. "The intermediary, after all, has got to make a living."

The Unit Trust Association

Unit trust savings

The unsung heroes

Sector	UNIT TRUST REGULAR SAVINGS		
	Result of £20 a month invested over 15 years	10 years	5 years
UK General	12,332	6,418	1,929
UK Growth	11,596	5,997	1,825
UK Equity Income	12,984	6,656	2,047
International	9,786	5,068	1,634
North America	7,865	4,800	1,549
Europe	8,215	7,465	2,112
Australia	6,268	3,271	1,131
Japan	12,972	6,728	2,034
Far East		4,968	1,584

Offer to bid, net income reinvested. Figures at October 1.

Source: Unit Trust Association.

declined late last year to allow management companies to pass on 20 per cent of the anticipated first year's payments to brokers—effectively the first three months' contributions—and to revert to the 3 per cent deduction after five years.

Clearly 20 per cent up front is more attractive to agents than 15 per cent in dribs and drabs over five years; it also encourages the unit holder not to sell during this period. So far only GT has taken up the new commission structure, offering a compensatory 2 per cent extra units for payments after year one.

Nearly 50 groups now run unit trust savings plans, many of them set up in the wake of LAPR's demise. But not all are actively promoted, because of the expense of dealing with

numerous small transactions. Several major companies, including Allied Dunbar, Abbey, Henderson, and Prudential, do not run them at all. Allied dropped its savings plan, inherited this year because of administrative costs. "It was just a service to unitholders," a spokesman said. "We made no profit on it."

M&G, however, has tripled its ranks of regular savers to 30,000 since April 1984—admittedly a small proportion of its 250,000 client base—and has stopped direct marketing of its insurance linked plans.

"The unit trust schemes now offer better value," an M&G spokesman said. "There is not a lot of profit in them for us, but we take the long term view that today's small savers are

Severe Disablement Allowance

Testing time looms for claimants

ARE YOU, or anyone you know, severely disabled, unable to work and between 35 and 49? If so November 28 is a date to remember. That is when the so-called "second phase" of the Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA) comes into operation.

SDA, introduced late last year, is the replacement benefit for the old Non-Contributory Invalidity Pension (NCIP) or the housewives' equivalent, HNCIP. NCIP was paid to men and women who, as a result of long-term illness or disability,

were incapable of work for which an employer would pay and had no contribution record against which to claim a national insurance benefit. Married women, who were assumed under Beveridge to have worked in the home rather than in "paid" employment, had to satisfy a dual test of incapacity before qualifying for HNCIP. They had to show that they were incapable of work for which an employer would pay, and that they could not carry out their "household duties" such as making beds

and doing the washing. As a result disability-related organisations consistently claimed the benefit rules were discriminatory and contrary to the 1979 EEO directive on equal treatment of men and women in social security matters.

In answer to this, the Government abolished NCIP and HNCIP in favour of SDA last year. However, its introduction was phased in because the medical authorities and the Department of Health and Social Security recognised that they could not cope with the expected levels of demand for medical assessments and the flood of fresh claims. Therefore, those between 35 and 49 have had to wait until this month before becoming eligible to apply for the new allowance. Other age groups became eligible a year ago.

In theory qualifying for the allowance rests on a dual test for all claimants. First, they must show that they are incapable of work for which an employer would pay for a period of 28 consecutive weeks. Secondly, they must show that they are so severely disabled that they have an assessed level of 80 per cent disability. Whereas the second part of the dual test used to rest on marital status, it now depends on severity of disability. Or does it?

"PASSPORTS" TO SEVERE DISABLEMENT ALLOWANCE

1. If you already receive attendance or mobility allowance.
2. If you receive War Pensioners Mobility Supplement
3. If you have an invalid tricycle, DHSS car or private users' car allowance.
4. If you are registered with your local authority as blind or partially sighted.
5. If you have already been assessed as 80 per cent disabled for the purposes of industrial injuries benefit or a war disablement pension.
6. If you have received a vaccine damage payment.

There are in fact several exceptions. First, if you already receive NCIP or HNCIP, you will automatically be transferred to SDA. Secondly, if you are between 16 and 20, you need only show that you are incapable of work—you do not need to have your disability assessed. Thirdly, again because the DHSS and the medical authorities cannot cope with claims requiring medical assessments, certain benefits have been designated as "passports" to the new allowance. In other words, if you qualify under certain benefits or assessments summarised in the table, you will not have to undergo a fresh assessment. You will simply be deemed 80 per cent disabled.

Because the DHSS operates assessments in the same way as for industrial injuries benefit,

if an individual is assessed as 75 per cent disabled this will be rounded up to 80 per cent—enough for SDA.

One final point at school or further education. The defining phrase is "21 hours tutor contact." Anyone aged 16, 17 or 18 and still at school or in further education, can undergo a course of instruction and claim SDA provided the course does not exceed 21 hours of tutor contact time per week.

Unsupervised homework hours, lunch hours and breaks do not count. Even if the tutor contact hours exceed 21 hours this will still be acceptable if the extra hours have been arranged specifically because of the disability. A typical example would be special extra braille classes.

Linda Avery

OTC market

Spotlight on risks

THE over-the-counter market has always been a risky place, but it looks more dangerous than ever in the light of a new report from the Economist.

The report looks at the options for a company that wants to offer its shares to the public outside full Stock Exchange, but the figures it has compiled on the over-the-counter market make grim reading for the investor.

The over-the-counter (OTC) market is an amorphous group of licensed dealers trading in shares over the telephone. Popular issues of fully listed shares like British Telecom and Britoil have been heavily traded, but the OTC market specialists in companies too small for a Stock Exchange are more speculative and more volatile than their big brothers listed on the Stock Exchange.

Riskier companies should offer high returns to investors to compensate for the danger—especially as very few of the OTC companies pay dividends. But the Economist report says the OTC market as a whole has gained only 6 per cent over the last two years, compared with 38 per cent for the FT All Share Index or 16 per cent for the Datastream index of the Unlisted Securities Market, the Stock Exchange's official second tier market.

The volatility of the OTC index, however, conceals major movements in individual share prices. It is simply that these movements have cancelled each other out.

Some companies saw their share prices rise dramatically during the period of the study—Applied Holographics up 554 per cent, Olivier up 311 per cent, Airship Industries up 280 per cent. But more than half of the most volatile stocks showed a fall, and 40 per cent of these falls were of 50 per cent or more.

Movement is erratic. "In a typical recent week, less than 20 per cent of the stocks show any movement at all," the report says. "The picture is one of sharp but discontinuous changes, which, to a great extent, cancel each other out."

The most damning conclusion of the report is on the question of OTC share prices. Out of 179 shares listed in the "pink sheet" published by licensed dealer Prior, Harwin, 88 were quoted "basis price", which means the basis on which the dealer will attempt to match bargains. This is the best of uncertain indications of the actual prices it will prove possible to deal at.

And even where bid and offer prices are quoted, the spread—the margin between the buying and selling prices—averages a hefty 25 per cent.

Going public: a report on the markets in unlisted securities, by Graham Bannock with Alan Doran, Economist Special Report No. 324.

OTC BID-OFFER PRICE SPREADS

Offer as % of bid price	No. of companies	% of total companies
Up to 114	64	51.2
115-129	31	24.8
130-144	15	12.2
145 and over	19	15.2
Total	129	100.0
Average spread		124.2%

George Graham

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in the Minster Trust BUSINESS EXPANSION FUND HOTELS

Object: To offer qualifying investors the prospect of asset-backed capital growth through investment in the UK's expanding hotel industry.

Investment policy: Within this sector of industry, Minster Trust, assisted by hotel consultants Greene, Belfield-Smith & Co, intends to invest in a balanced portfolio of sound, qualifying companies able to demonstrate well-conceived expansion plans. If required, up to 25% of the fund may be invested elsewhere.

Special discount for investment before 18th December, 1985.

Minimum investment: £3,000. Special arrangements are available for participation by practising accountants. The fund may be closed at any time at the Manager's discretion.

How to invest: You may apply only on the terms and conditions set out in the fund Memorandum. For your copy, please send in the attached coupon of telephone 01-623 1050.

Note: Investment in unquoted companies carries higher risks as well as the chance of higher rewards. Before you invest you should consult your stockbroker, accountant, solicitor or other professional adviser. Approval of the fund has not been obtained for the limited purposes of paragraph 15(2) of Schedule 5 to the Finance Act 1983.

To: Ms. Jan Hildreth, Minster Trust Limited, Minster House, Arthur Street, London EC4R 9BH.
Please send me a copy of the Memorandum inviting investment in your 3rd Business Expansion Fund.
Please include me on your mailing list for future issues.

Name
Address
Telephone No.

3 FT 23/11

FINANCE & THE FAMILY

Briefcase

Cattle trample the garden

Should I pursue a claim for damages against a local farmer whose cattle entered my drive and trampled over the garden and lawn. In this lane it is not possible to have gates. The farmer, who lives in the same lane, admits responsibility and has apologised, but refuses to pay compensation, saying that he took reasonable care while driving his cattle to another field. He referred me to his Insurance Society which sent an assessor who estimated the damage to be £70. The Insurance Society, however, will not meet the claim.

It is unlikely that you can make a claim for damages for trespass by the cattle: the terms of the Animals Act 1971 afford considerable protection to the farmer. Hence the response of the insurers. You could examine your own insurance to see if it affords you cover, but it is unlikely that this would be so.

Drinks go to the dogs

About six months ago I visited a local licensed establishment, when another customer who had just eaten a snack on the premises offered the remains on a plate to a dog who polished them off and was licking the plate. I protested to the customer and to the licensee who owned the dog and I was told it would not happen again. In October I was again in the same establishment and a customer had one of the dogs with its hind legs on a chair and its front legs on the table, drinking out of glasses held by the customer. I told this person that I objected to his conduct and considered it a serious danger to public health. I again saw the licensee and I was told the matter would be dealt with and that it would not happen again. The dogs have the run of the place. What is the position of animals on licensed premises where they sell food and drink?

This is a matter for the Environmental Health officer at your local authority, and you should make the matter up with that officer. It is a matter of fact and degree whether there is a health

Bed and breakfast bounced back

Can you kindly tell me what the present law is regarding bed and breakfast. It used to be that one could sell and rebuy within the same account, thus establishing a loss for the cost of one commission and a small jobbers' turn. Recently, under the present Chancellor, it was ruled that the sale had to be in one account and the repurchase in the next account, for the cost of two commissions, a full jobbers' turn and stamp duty. More recently still I understand there has been some relaxation, but although they both agreed that this was so, neither any stockbroker nor the accountant who does my tax return could say exactly what the relaxation is.

Assuming that you are only talking about bed-and-breakfast transactions in UK equities on The Stock Exchange, the answer is that you can do what you used to do before April 6 1982, namely sell on Day 1 and buy on Day 2 (within an account,

hazard; there is no prohibition on dogs as such in public houses, although the conduct of the dog may well contribute a sufficient hazard for action to be taken by the local authority.

Trustees' CGT liability on sales

My father died in 1971 and left part of his estate in trust—the income to go to my mother until her death. Mother remains well and healthy and we contemplate selling some equities while the market is high.

(1) Would any such sales be eligible for the "gains not exceeding £5,000" disposals not exceeding £12,000 exemption provided mother sells none of her own assets in the same tax year? (2) I understand that the Trust will not attract Capital Transfer Tax but will CGT be payable on mother's estate? 1—The Trustees' CGT exempt amount for 1988-89 is £2,950. This is quite independent of your mother's personal exempt amount, which is £5,000 this year. 2—No (if we have correctly interpreted your question).

New house number needed

By agreement with the Post Office and local planning authority, a change has been made in the address of my house, which is one of several properties in an enclave. Previously the properties in the enclave had a single house number and were differentiated by a suffix letter. This number and appropriate suffix letter is used to identify the house in the deeds. The building society with which I have a mortgage has already been notified of the change. It is essential for the Land Registry to be informed of the change in address, and if so, will there be any cost involved in effecting a change in the records?

with no delivery and hence no stamp duty). Old-style B & B was restored by a last minute amendment to the Finance Bill, retrospectively from April 6 this year. Your accountant should not be discouraged by the final part of paragraph 19.17 of paragraph 19.17 of Butterworths UK Tax Guide 1988-89. This was prepared before the Government tabled its crucial amendment (inserting the word "subsequently" into what is now paragraph 18 (1) of schedule 19 to the Finance Act) and unfortunately was not altered in the final stages of preparation and printing. There were a remarkable number of last-minute changes to the CGT rules this year—and there will doubtless be many more next year, possibly retrospectively from the beginning of the current tax year. CGT shows signs of getting out of control if a lot of work is not done upon the legislation before next spring—preferably with full and unhurried consultation.

No legal responsibility can be accepted by the Financial Times for the answers given in these columns. All inquiries will be answered by post as soon as possible.

In which case the landlords would have to give you formal notice if they want to terminate the tenancy. Only then would you need to act. If therefore you receive a notice from the landlords, you should at once consult solicitors.

Ask daughters to countersign

I wish to gift some capital to my daughters. I have too many shares in one particular company whose price has rocketed and whose sale would involve me in a considerable gains tax liability, as I have already reached the limits of my £5,000 allowance for this year. If I gave them some of these shares and they sold them would they suffer any CGT liability, provided their gain for the year is less than the limit? No, and you could avoid CGT upon the gifts by inviting each daughter to countersign your claim for holdover relief on the gift to her (by virtue of section 79 of the Finance Act 1980).

Of course, once the shares are registered in each daughter's name, it will be for her to decide whether to sell them and, if so, when. There must be no prearranged sequence of events, or the Revenue may assess you to CGT on the basis that the substance of each of the composite transactions was a gift of the cash proceeds, not of the shares.

You do not have to give notice, but should sit tight. The premises are probably protected under Part II of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954.

Pensions

Consider Mr Brown, expatriate

AS RETIREMENT approaches, the expatriate will be faced with many important decisions, but few will be more important to his financial well-being than the question of whether he should partially commute his pension. Most schemes permit the pensioner to give up a part of his pension—in return for a lump sum—but, typically, the decision once made is irrevocable.

For those retiring to the UK taxation is no bar to commutation. Quite the contrary, in fact, for while the pension itself would be chargeable to tax, the commutation proceeds usually escape liability altogether. This will be the case, where the pension to be commuted derives from service at least three-quarters of which was overseas. (In the case of jobs lasting more than 10 years, the required proportion could be less.)

Receiving what could be a large sum from partial commutation of the pension gives the recipient a financial freedom and flexibility of action that getting the pension itself could achieve only over a long period. The cash could be used to buy a boat or a larger house and some of it might finance a world cruise or a new car. But if the happy recipient merely invests this addition to his capital, a very advantageous position is likely to result.

Consider Mr Brown whose

total income is such that he has a marginal tax rate of 50 per cent and who commutes one-third of his £21,000-a-year pension in return for a lump sum of £70,000. This he invests at 10 per cent.

Naturally, the commutation will reduce Mr Brown's pension: but after taking into account the tax which would have been paid on it, the net reduction is as follows:

Full pension £21,000
Reduced pension £14,000

Gross reduction in pension £7,000

Deduct Overseas Pension Tax Relief 1/10th £700

Tax payable at 50% £3,500

Net reduction in pension £3,850

On the other hand, the new capital will itself produce

£70,000 invested at 10% £7,000

Deduct tax at 50% £3,500

Net income £3,500

As will be seen, the income after commutation is £350 a

year less than it would have been had the full pension been drawn. So, there looks to be a clear advantage in drawing the pension. But is that really so?

A moment's reflection will show that nothing could be further from the truth. For if the pensioner dies, the pension dies with him; had he opted for the lump sum, it will remain a part of his estate.

Thus, commuting will be disadvantageous only if the point is reached where the reduction in income which it causes exceeds the lump sum itself. In our example, that would be:

Lump Sum £70,000

Annual Income Loss £350

The most generous pension schemes allow commutation without any curtailment of widow's pension. However, even if it does reduce that pension, too, the overall result is not likely to be changed much.

Of course, instead of investing his lump sum for a high yield, Mr Brown might prefer a portfolio of equities producing an average income of, say, 5 per cent, together with the prospect of future capital appreciation. The net income produced would then be:

£70,000 invested @ 5% £3,500

Deduct tax @ 50% £1,750

Net Income £1,750

But if the investments achieve a growth of just one half of this rate, the increase in the value of the portfolio would be £70,000 @ 5% = £3,500.

Naturally, every pensioner should carefully examine the figures appropriate to his particular scheme but, in the great majority of cases, the conclusion is likely to be clear. If you have the right to commute your pension, do so.

His annual income loss would now be £2,100 (£3,850-£1,750), and commutation would become disadvantageous after 33 years (£70,000 ÷ 33).

£2,100

If the pension is index-linked and inflation is running at the rate of 10 per cent a year, the net pension increase foregone at the end of the first year by reason of the commutation would be £385, as follows:

Pension increase foregone £7,000 @ 10% £700

Deduct Overseas Pension tax relief 1/10 £70

£315

£385

Donald Elkin

A SHORT EXPLANATION AS TO WHY THE MERCURY EUROPEAN GROWTH FUND COULD BE ONE OF THE BEST LONG TERM GROWTH FUNDS AVAILABLE.

This fund was launched in December 1983. By 1st November, 1985 the value of units had increased by 64.9 per cent.*

This puts it amongst the best performing unit trusts investing in Europe.

For the year to 31st December 1984, it was the best performing European unit trust, and over the twelve months to 1st November, 1985 it was in the top three.*

An impressive track record which would seem to indicate that the investor looking for long term capital growth through a European fund will find no better.

The success of this fund can be explained by the way in which it is managed.

The managers pursue a highly selective approach giving the Fund a comparatively small number of holdings.

Moreover, the portfolio is constantly re-evaluated against detailed and continuous research to achieve the most effective management of the fund. The success of this fund can also be explained by who runs it.

Mercury has the expertise and experience of Warburg Investment Management behind it.

Warburgs have been managing funds in continental Europe for decades and have one of the best records for successful fund management in this area.

Always bearing in mind that the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up, Europe seems likely to continue to grow as an attractive area for investment over the next few years. The economies of the countries are improving. Tax incentives are being offered to investors, interest rates are falling and there is greater activity from domestic as well as foreign buyers.

It seems that if you're looking for the long term growth fund that can best take advantage of all this, you've just found it.

*Figures from Planned Savings including re-invested income, offer price to bid price basis. T/Fund was previously known as Mercury European Fund.

MERCURY

MERCURY FUND MANAGERS LIMITED - PART OF WARBURG INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT LIMITED, 33 KING WILLIAM STREET, LONDON EC4R 9AS.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The minimum initial investment in Mercury European Growth Fund is £1,000. Subsequent investments may be made in amounts of at least £100.

Units may be purchased or sold back at offer and bid prices calculated daily. Prices will be published daily in the Financial Times and the Daily Telegraph but without responsibility for any error in publication or for non-publication.

Contract notes will normally be issued within two days of receipt of applications. Units can be realised at any time and payment will normally be made within seven days of receipt of the renounced certificate(s).

Management Charges: an initial charge of 5% is included in the offer price of units. The annual management charge is 1% (plus VAT) of the value of the Fund, which is charged initially against income and is taken into account when calculating the prices of units. On giving three months' notice, the Managers would be permitted to increase this charge to a maximum of 1½% (plus VAT). The Managers are also entitled to a rounding adjustment included in the bid and offer prices of up to 1% or 1.25p, whichever is less.

Audited annual accounts will be sent to unitholders and a report on the progress of the Fund, together with a list of current holdings, will be sent to unitholders twice a year. Income, net of basic rate tax, is distributed to unitholders on 25th September each year. The Managers also offer accumulation units.

Yield: the offer price of Mercury European Growth Fund distribution units on 1st November 1985 was 86.8p and the estimated gross current yield was 1.71% per annum. Commission is paid to qualified intermediaries and rates are available on request.

The Managers are Mercury Fund Managers Limited, a subsidiary of Warburg Investment Management Limited and a member of the Unit Trust Association. The Trustee is The Royal Bank of Scotland plc. The Fund is a UK Authorised Unit Trust and a "wider-range" investment under the Trustee Investments Act 1961.

Trust Deed: The Managers and Trustee are permitted under the terms of the Trust Deed to write or purchase Traded Call Options or purchase Traded Put Options on behalf of the Fund.

APPLICATION FORM

To: Mercury Fund Managers Limited, 33 King William Street, London EC4R 9AS. Telephone: 01-280 2800. (Registered Office, registered in England, No. 11025171.)

I/We wish to purchase distribution/accumulation units in Mercury European Growth Fund to the value of £ (minimum initial investment £1,000) at the offer price ruling on receipt of my/our application.

A cheque made payable to Mercury Fund Managers Limited is enclosed.

I am/We are over 18 years of age.

☐ Please tick this box for further details about Mercury European Growth Fund.

☐ Please tick this box for information about the other Mercury funds.

*Please delete as appropriate - otherwise distribution units will be allocated.

(BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE)

Surname (Mr/Ms/Miss/Ms/Ms)

For names in full

Address

Postcode

(Payments and correspondence will be sent to this address unless you specify otherwise.)

Signature

Date

(Particulars and signatures of any joint applicant(s) should be attached.)

This offer is not open to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

1% Discount until 11th December

Happy Birthday



Baillie Gifford, winner of the Money Observer 1984 'Best Investment Trust Group' award, has pleasure in announcing that the Unit Trusts which it launched in October 1984, at 100p per unit, performed over the year as follows:-

	Offer Price 31st October 1985	Planned Savings* ending over 12 months
BG America	128.1p	1st (84 funds)
BG Energy	112.4p	1st (34 funds)
BG Income		
Growth	170.6p	1st (87 funds)
BG Japan	102.4p	11th (37 funds)
BG Technology	157.4p	1st (85 funds)

For information on these Unit Trusts and on BG Europe Unit Trust (launched July 1985 at 50p, offer price 62.0p on 31st October 1985) please complete and return the coupon below, or phone:

Robert Cullen on 01-638 1626, or Elaine Coles on 031-226 6066.

Note: Investments in BG Unit Trusts between 18th November and 11th December will benefit from a SPECIAL 1% DISCOUNT

To: Baillie Gifford & Co Limited, FREEPOST, 3 Glenfinlas Street, EDINBURGH EH3 6YY.

Please send me information on BG Unit Trust (insert name of trust)

Name

Address

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WHEN IT COMES TO MARKET LEADERSHIP, NO ONE ELSE HAS OUR BOTTLE.

Of course, it takes more than just a bottle to carve out a place as Britain's leading gin, maintain your share of the market at around 50%, and keep it growing.

It calls for high standards of quality, strong marketing support, and the commitment to a brand which, over the years, has become almost synonymous with gin.

Indeed, such is the popularity of Gordon's, it is now the leading quality gin in the world.

And Gordon's is not our only major gin brand.

Tanqueray - the best selling imported gin in America - and the highly-respected Booth's brand both play their part in our international successes. In 1984/85 alone, export sales of gin and our unique Scotch whiskies such as Johnnie Walker Red Label, Dewar's White Label, Haig, Black & White, White Horse and Johnnie Walker Black Label earned £473 million, much of it coming straight back to Scotland.

But for all this, we don't see the world marketplace as a kind of cocktail bar for the svelte and successful.

We know it's a tough place where flair, innovation and tenacity are prime requirements. Where the quality of our people counts for everything. And where success calls for a certain kind of bottle.

DISTILLERS

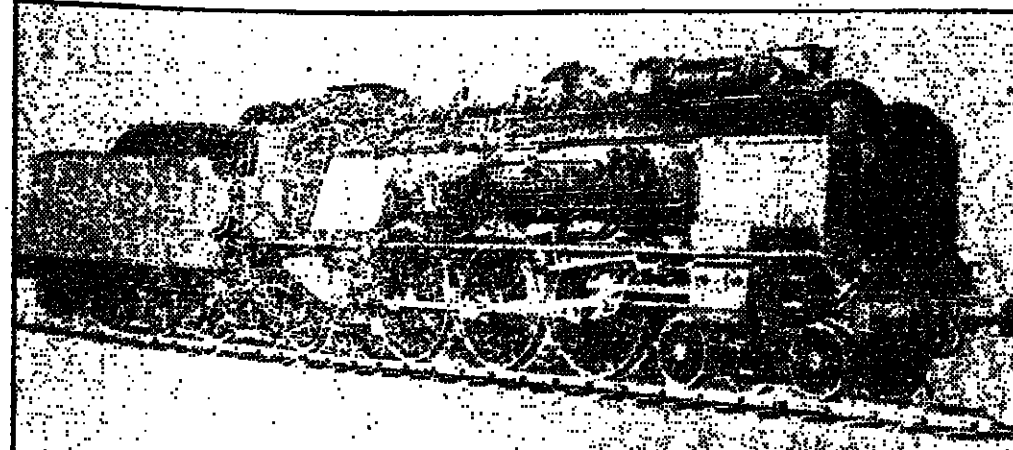
THE NAME BEHIND THE WORLD'S LEADING BRANDS

The Distillers Company plc, Edinburgh

The Antiquary • John Barr • John Begg • Black & White • Buchanan's • Cardhu Highland Malt • Claymore • Crawford's Special Reserve • Dewar's White Label • Dimple
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Booth's • Gordon's • High & Dry • Tanqueray
Cossack Vodka • Hine Cognac • Pimm's • Crabbie's Green Ginger Wine

(These are just some of our leading international brands)

DIVERSIONS



All-metal 0 gauge model of a 1934 French locomotive. 21 inches long. Rivarossi's Masterpiece series, price £1500.

For one-track minds

The model train business is gathering steam. Michael Strutt examines a world in miniature.

THE MICROCHIP is being given a run for its money by a traditional hobby which is making a surprising comeback this year. Model trains as a children's toy took a battering from Star Wars spin-offs, electronic games and home computers, but sales are now rising again and as adult hobby trains are going from strength to strength.

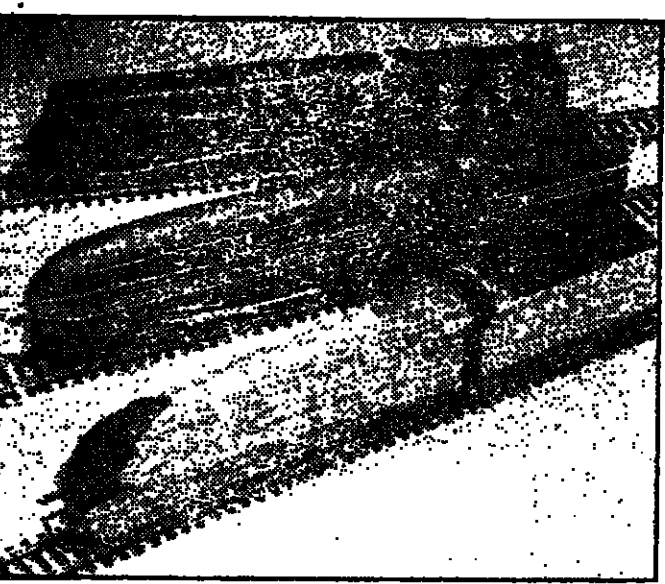
There is now a huge and ever-expanding choice of individual locomotives and special sets for children and enthusiasts to put on the sideboard—some at far pocket-money prices. One set, for example, marks this year's 150th anniversary of the Great Western Railway, in correct livery of course. Hornby, the best-known name, found itself buffeted in

the 1970s by the instant appeal of electronic toys, and also by two new manufacturers—Mainline and Airfix. But there wasn't enough room and the two newcomers themselves ran into trouble, though they are still available.

Simon Kohler, Hornby's marketing manager, says: "About a year ago people started returning to traditional toys and pastimes. Exposure to trains on TV, through the Great Western celebrations, for example, have also helped bring children back to looking at model trains."

Basically, the high street chain of model shops, also says that sales are up, as does Peco, the specialist track maker, which exports most of its output and reckons that seven out of ten of its customers are adults.

Almost every kind of train seems to be modelled and the variety is bewildering: narrow-gauge engines and boxlike diesel shunters, to famous British locomotives such as Mallard and Coronation, great home passenger trains of America and all kinds of coaches and wagons from a dozen Con-



Classic British 00 gauge locomotives by Hornby. From top: 41 Squadron of Southern Region, LMS City of Bristol, and LNER's Silver Fox £35-£40

tinental and Scandinavian railways.

You can pay £30 to £40 for a basic Hornby or Lima set, with extra carriages or trucks costing a few pounds each, or £80 to £100 for a finely-detailed plastic moulded locomotive by Roco or Rivarossi, to £1,000 and much more for a sizeable electric or live steam loco. Everything from Stephenson's Rocket to today's French TGV.

With the latest electronics, you can also have lights that work automatically, and steam and diesel noises—even the synchronised sound of wheels slipping on the rails.

There is a vast number of scale parts and accessories for the railway layout enthusiast: range after range of miniature cars and people, fences and trackside equipment, clock faces, weather vane and wrought iron gates. And, if you want it, a replica of the main station at Bonn.

Nearly all model trains run on 12-volt DC systems and there are three main track gauges. The main world standard is H0 gauge (16.5 mm), while the familiar UK (00) gauge is a pervasively British size, using slightly different scale rolling stock on the same tracks. 00 gauge holds three-quarters of the British market.

Larger than this is 0 gauge (32 mm), the size for a defined band of traditional enthusiasts who run faithfully-detailed models and layouts costing hundreds of pounds.

The third is the neat N gauge, developed in the 1950s. A complete layout can fit on a table-top and a basic set costs about £30. Several manufacturers make N gauge but the UK market is dominated by the technically excellent diecast Graham Farish range which extends to 300 vehicles, 45 of them locomotives.

N gauge accounts for half the sets sold in Germany and is the gauge of the future, according to managing director Peter Farish. "Houses are built smaller these days and the old

8 ft x 4 ft 00 layout can be set up in N gauge on a board measuring 4 ft x 2 ft."

But model trains can be smaller than this. The tiny—and expensive—Z gauge, made only by Märklin, has rails a mere 6.5 mm apart. Its locomotives, a couple of inches long, are made as finely as a watch and can cost up to £70 each.

Larger still than 0 gauge is gauge 1 (45 mm) for which some remarkable metal models are made, often steam-powered, big enough to run in the garden during summer. It is also the track size for LGB (Lehmann's Big Railway), the large and cheerful indoor/outdoor trains made by Lehmann of Nuremberg. Colin Sparrow of Beatties says: "A lot of men buy LGB sets for the children but they are really for themselves."

The specialist end of the market, for the dedicated collector, is fascinating. The pieces, costing several hundred pounds, are a tribute to the manufacturer's or handbuilder's art. Already an appreciating asset, these very high-quality models, from makers such as Rivarossi, Metropoli and Fulgurex, are the collectors' items of tomorrow if not now. They are distributed through specialist dealers such as Victorians in London and Kittle Hobby in Swansea.

Peter Banks of Kittle Hobby, who also imports and distributes a number of ranges, says: "This is the adult market of scale models rather than model trains. Our customers are almost exclusively men, with quite a few company directors and mail order customers in India and the US."

"We had 30 Metropolitan Stanier Jubilee locomotives at £550 each and they all sold in 10 weeks. So strong is the nostalgia for steam that quite modest people sometimes buy a £1,000 locomotive by instalment." Coaches can cost £220 to £600-plus each.

He is now marketing a series of specially-built gauge 1 steam models of 1880s and 1890s locos under the title Victorian Connection, with the first priced at £1,400. They are, he believes, the first British-made museum-standard pieces to be offered.

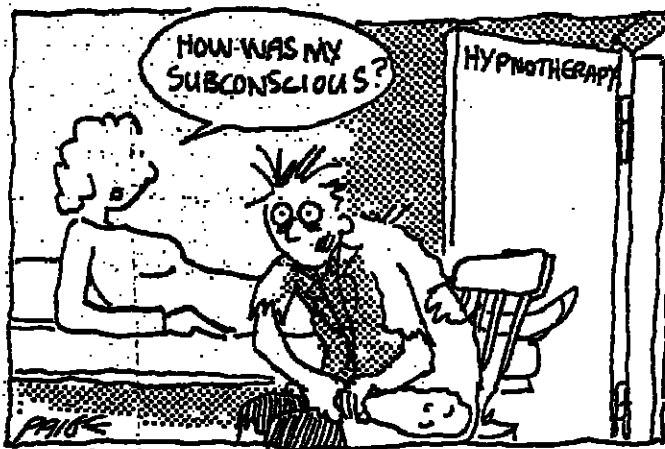
Also beautifully made are the Aster gauge 1 steam locomotives produced in small batches in Japan for Fulgurex—mainly for the US market. A glistering Mallard in pre-BR blue livery costs £1,700 and the highest in the range, a superb black Hudson at £2,800, is a whopping three feet long.

Addresses

Battens, 188 Smithdown Road, Liverpool 15 (tel: 051 733 3655). Kittle Hobby, 24 Penard Road, Kittle, Swansea (tel: 044 125 2508). Model Railways, 14 York Way, London N1 (tel: 01-527 5551). Victorians, 166 Pentonville Road, London N1 (tel: 01-278 1019). W and H Models, 14 New Cavendish Street, London W1 (tel: 486 3361).

Alternative Health

Dream up a better lifestyle



A GROWING number of small advertisements claim that hypnotherapy can help cure problems as diverse as blushing, compulsive eating, depression and insomnia.

Can it? Or is this claim merely a modern version of 18th century nerve powder, which it was claimed, countered "frightful" dreams, confused ideas, failure of memory and horrors? Hypnotherapy, practitioners say, can cure or relieve anxiety, phobias, obsessions, thought-induced "illness," loss of memory, blushing, smoking or drug addiction, compulsive eating, impotence or frigidity and depression.

Treatment methods vary. In general, however, hypnotherapists first explain hypnosis and reassure patients that they won't lose control. They induce a light stage of hypnosis until the patient's eyes are closed. Finally, they deepen the hypnosis if it is considered necessary. Hypnotherapy works by persuading patients to relax, to lower their normal defences and explore memories that may have been deliberately repressed. In this way, the therapist can discover the root of the problem and, while the mind is relaxed and receptive, plant in positive suggestions.

Practised correctly, hypnotherapy can do no harm. However, hypnotherapists are not legally obliged to have training or qualifications—so it is important to go to a reputable practitioner. With that in mind, I contacted the British Society of Medical and Dental Hypnotists, which holds a national register of medically qualified hypnotherapists, and asked for one in London.

Many people are apprehensive about hypnotherapists because of the lasting impression left by stage hypnotists—with their melodramatic control over members of an audience. Potential patients are often uncertain as to what to expect from a hypnotherapist and hesitate to find out.

The room of the hypnotherapist I visited, was free from any overtones of Sigmund Freud. It was light and airy, it had three comfortable chairs and a small bed against the wall.

I explained that I was nervous about a speech I was to give in

a few days. I also felt that my confidence in other areas of my life was in need of bolstering. He asked what I thought was the root of this lack of confidence. In this first session, he would, however, concentrate on helping me with the speech.

He told me to close my eyes and rest my hands on my knees. Then for about 30 minutes he asked me to imagine various scenes. The first was that I had a small, fearful alien ego inside me and that I should envisage her by the side of me, calm her and tell her that her worries were not doing me any good.

I was to recall the last time I had behaved in an unconfident way and mentally re-run the scene, this time acting more assertively. Using this technique, I was to recall earlier occasions of the same kind.

He told me to imagine a screen on the left showing past images of failure with speeches and one on the right with images of success. The right hand screen was the positive one on which I should concentrate. He asked what I felt said a memorable speech. I said I was anxious that my mouth would dry up, preventing me from talking. He suggested various practical hints, like taking mineral water with me.

Then, in a quiet, slow voice, he asked me to move to another, more relaxing chair, put my head back and look up with my eyes as high as I could. "Take a deep breath in, close your eyes, and breathe out," he said. For the next 10 minutes, he

concentrated on getting me to relax while the "unconscious mind" heard what I said.

He asked me to imagine that I was going to walk down some stairs.

At the bottom of the stairs I would find a library of my life's experiences in book form. Together, he said, we would update this library with the more positive memories, which from now on I should use for reference, slowly replacing the older, negative experiences. Replacing those books, he said, would have an effect on other areas of my life.

In that library I could practise standing up for myself, being more assertive, speaking my own mind. It was a place where I could practise some of my talks, gain confidence, "but still maintain your charm, you own true delicate character," he said.

He slowly counted me back up the stairs and asked me to record this part of the session and gave me the tape, so that I could play it at home as a form of auto hypnosis. He asked me to see him the following week to check how the speech had gone.

Two people who underwent hypnotherapy told me of their reactions. One, a 42-year-old man, wanted to give up smoking. He felt the hypnotherapy was a waste of time and money. "I expected some sort of trance," he said. "He just reiterated that I should stop smoking. Apart from my eyes

being closed, it was like listening to my friends."

The other patient, a woman, 38, who washed her hands obsessively about 40 times a day, said that it was only through deep hypnosis that she had begun to realise why she did it. "It was the only treatment that helped. I had tried everything," she said.

Hypnotherapy can undoubtedly point to an impressive number of successes. Nevertheless, I felt that the hypnotherapist had merely given me a pep talk that I could have given myself. He asked how I felt, and I told him. Confidently. Perhaps, on reflection, he had helped me.

When I went back, however, to tell him the speech had not gone badly, he told me off for not being positive. "Say it was good," he insisted. I had to try several times, because I was so used to self-deprecation. What I learned from him is that the confidence is there, but I had been undermining it.

Costs

I paid £35 for my hour-long session, and each further session will be the same amount. Costs vary among hypnotherapists. Some charge only £8-£10 for half an hour, but bargain rates may mean an inexperienced practitioner.

Names of medical practitioners—doctors who have also trained in hypnotherapy—can be obtained from the British Society of Dental and Medical Hypnotists, 42 Links Road, Ashford, Surrey.

British Hypnotherapy Association, 67 Upper Berkeley Street, London W1, also runs a referral service (though practitioners are not necessarily medically qualified); and information and practical help can be obtained from the British Society of Hypnotherapists, 51 Queen Ann Street, London W1. (See required.)

Warning: some hypnotherapists who advertise have impressive letters after their names. They may mean very little.

Joy Melville

Stars and stripes forever

VARIATION is a gift of nature, not something you can breed. Every now and again a plant turns up with some leaves that are not wholly green, but instead are marked with white, cream or yellow. It can come in spots or splashes, as an edging to the leaves, or as a blotch or streak in the centre. Occasionally, it might simply follow the veins, giving the leaf a mottled appearance.

Such variations may be evanescent. You take a cutting from the shoot with the oddly coloured leaves, hoping to preserve the novelty, and it goes back to normal the next year. That happened to me not long ago when someone gave me shoots from a rosemary that had a gilt edge to each leaf. Nearly all the cuttings rooted, but not one of the plants now shows the slightest sign of variegation.

Fortunately, this is unusual. Generally, the plants derived from cuttings or from grafts (if that proves to be an easier way of propagating the freak which properly is called a sport or mutation) do continue to look just like that original stem. So a new variety is born, and most probably is given a name, although this is not always so.

Sometimes, you can get several variations from the same species. There are two well-known golden variegations of *Elaeagnus pungens*, a bushy shrub with inconspicuous but sweetly scented flowers in the autumn. The one most commonly sold by nurseries is called *Maculata* and has a large blotch of yellow in the centre of each leaf, but the one I grow has a yellow band around a green centre and is variously

known as *Dicksonii* and *Variegata*. I prefer it to *Maculata* because some of the leaves come all yellow, and so the overall effect is brighter.

There is a hybrid between *Elaeagnus pungens* and another species named *E. macrophylla* with leaves that are silvery beneath. This hybrid is called *E. ebbingei* and is a useful evergreen background shrub because it grows fast and has very sweet scented flowers. But although its leaves also are silvery beneath, this hybrid could not rival the variegated forms of *E. pungens* for colour until one day it, too, produced variegation. It came in the form of a yellow edge to the leaf and so the variety was named *Gilt Edge*.

There is, I think, rather less yellow on average than either of the variegated forms of *Elaeagnus pungens* and it is paler in colour, although these are difficult matters to assess as individual plants vary greatly. But a plant of *Gilt Edge* that was shown at a Royal Horticultural Society meeting a few weeks ago was better in both these respects than any I remember seeing previously and, on this standard, *E. ebbingei Gilt Edge* would go towards the top of my list of desirable evergreen variegated shrubs.

So also are the best of the creamy-white and yellow variegated hollies such as *Golden King*, *Madame Briot* and *Silver Queen*. *Golden King* is another of those plants that can produce some stems on which the leaves are wholly yellow with no green at all, but it would be unwise to use these as cuttings in the hope of getting a com-

pletely golden-plant since, lacking any chlorophyll to enable it to use the energy of sunshine to manufacture food, it would probably die rapidly of starvation.

There are some plants that have all-yellow leaves and yet survive, but if you look closely you will see the veins have some under-current of green or are wholly yellow only for a period and become increasingly green as the summer advances. This is true of the mock orange named *Philadelphus coronarius aureus* and also of *Spiraea japonica Goldflame*. Both are excellent garden shrubs but are not evergreen, so they do not help the colour display in winter.

The Indian bean tree, *Catalpa bignonioides*, has an all-yellow leaved variety named *Aurea* which, like many variegated plants, does not grow as fast as its normal green-leaved parent. It is much planted as a street tree and does very well in towns, but it is late coming into leaf in the spring. Recently, in a small nursery, I saw a very unusual form of this tree which had a double variegation, some parts of each leaf being yellow, as in *Aurea*, and some parts lime green. It was being sold as *C. bignonioides variegata* and I thought it attractive although not as bright as *Aurea*.

Griselinia littoralis is a big bushy evergreen that has two variegated forms, one the reverse of the other. The common one is called *variegata* and has a yellow edge which can become very broad to the point occasionally at which the leaf becomes wholly golden. The other form, which does not seem

Gardening



to have acquired a name, has the yellow in the centre and the green round the edges. I see it from time to time in gardens but I have never encountered it in a nursery or in a nursery catalogue.

Since the green of *griselina* is itself light and yellowish and the surface of the leaf is very smooth, I rate *Variegata* and its mixture of lime green and gold among the best of yellow variegated evergreens.

There also are some excellent varieties of *euonymus* which offer a great range of heights, from the almost prostrate *Euonymus fortunei variegatus*, which has grey-green leaves edged with white, to the tall and bushy *E. japonicus ovatus* with lustrous green leaves widely bordered with yellow. In addition, there are small shrubby forms of *E. fortunei* which will grow 18-24 in high and spread to a yard or more. *Emerald and Gold* is one of these, with a lot of yellow which becomes more coppery in winter; *Silver Queen* matches it in creamy white; and *Emerald Gaiety* is deep green edged with white.

Arthur Hellyer

Country notes

Fair and fowl play

MANY years ago I lived in a village off the farm and early one Sunday morning was woken by a gunshot in a field behind my house. Looking out I saw the local poacher run up to a corn rick, put something in it and then disappear up the hedge. I went to investigate and found that he had hidden a partridge there. Such practices are not to be encouraged, so I removed the partridge, replacing it with a note suggesting that he call at the landowner's house and ask for it back. We then ate the partridge.

I came to know this character well later and always found it best when I became a landowner, to invite him shooting so that I would know that when I was at one end of the farm, he was not reducing the stock at the other. I also had a great deal of sympathy for what might be called the non-offensive poacher—that is, the man who did it for sport and not simply as a business.

When I was a tenant farmer the landlord often kept the game for himself and it used to irritate me when his pheasants scratched up my corn and I felt the keeper was always springing on me. Rabbits had always been fair game for a tenant and it was most frustrating to see a pheasant come out of a bush

which might have held a rabbit and not shoot it. Sometimes the temptation was too great to be borne, especially when I knew the keeper was away, and although suspected, I was never caught red-handed.

But circumstances alter cases. I purchased my first small farm and immediately became a game preserver. There was little game on it, rabbits and the odd pheasant. So I joined with Alf, the poacher and together we became a thorn in the side of the local landlords. The pheasant, although it may be reared in captivity, is primarily a feral bird. It becomes the property of the landowner where it finds itself and can be shot by that man—or otherwise taken—as long as he has a game licence.

There are all sorts of tactics for attracting them. Planting strategic blocks of hawthorn, installing feed there to hold them; or one could go for a stroll through someone's wood with a small bag of wheat and raisins and dribble it along the right hedgerow.

Of course the neighbours used to try and counter these tactics but only occasionally did they take the obvious step of inviting me to go shooting. I would never bite the hand that fed me, at least unless I was very hungry. Then, as my acreage spread, I found that my larger neighbours were doing exactly the same as I had been doing. Their keepers seemed to ignore boundaries and were up to every trick to stop their reared birds from straying.

This is a big problem nowadays. Birds used to be hatched out and brooded under hens with which they would stay for a long time. This gave them an attachment to their rearing place and they seldom strayed far. Today they are incubated artificially and kept in holding pens before release. Once beyond the wire they wander for miles. Their main pathways are the hedges along which there are beaten tracks used by all other wildlife.

If you should meet someone

walking along a lonely lane, whistling perhaps and tapping the road or the branches as he goes, he is probably trying to induce the birds to move to his land or persuading them to return to their birthplace, without committing trespass. Which is hard to prove anyway.

I once asked Alf if he had ever been caught. Not seriously he admitted. By which he meant that he had never been prosecuted. On one occasion he saw the policeman approaching along the lane and dived into the ditch with gun and bag of game. The policeman stopped when he became level with him, lit his pipe and then said as he set off again, "You'll get bad rheumatics in that ditch, Alf."

There are still operators on Alf's scale about, often sniping at birds from their cars on Sunday afternoons. But as far as I know there are not the organised gangs which in pre-war days used to have pitched battles with keepers. Most of the agro is between rival landowners or their employees acting independently. The fact is that game birds are not really valuable enough to make poaching a commercial, and not a sporting, activity. Quite unlike salmon poaching.

John Cherrington



Children advise on the world of Wuzzles, transformers and Lego

Ideas for Santa to toy with



Wuzzles and Lego: Jacqueline King—Cleaver and Mark Inman

appeals, I understand, to the most, most caring of little girls. The appeal of a Wuzzle is even harder to grasp—an unlikely collection of colours (purple, orange, turquoise) combine to form an even more unlikely animal (for instance, a hippo—no, a combination of hippo kangaroo).

Trains for boys are it appears, losing ground—so much for the age of the train—but Thomas the Tank Engine and Postman Pat are both doing well.

The image of families divided by computer screens once haunted the nation but we can relax—it never came to pass. The family survives and the increasing popularity of board games proves it. Trivial Pursuits looks as if it will outlast its rivals yet again this year.

Finally, if your oil well has come gushing up or you backed the right horse, you might like to know that it is now possible to buy mini-cars that work on petrol—cheapest, is an open "fun kart" at £895.

But enough of what the stores tell us they are selling this Christmas. What do the children want? We asked them to speak for themselves.

Most of the toys mentioned are widely available but if you have the time and energy you will be able to save considerable sums by "shopping around". Prices seem to vary enormously from one outlet to another with chains like Argos, Asda and Sainsbury's offering more competitive prices than the more up-market department stores.

Andrew Coles (12½)
"I need a new watch but it must be a chrono with alarm date and stopwatch and it must be waterproof. And I'd like any of those Electro records, from 1 to 9. I'd like some blank videos, so I can have my own recordings of programmes I like. Of course if I had a video recorder."

Alison Coles (14½)
Alison, in common with a good number of young girls, is horse mad. It was therefore no surprise that what she wanted above all for Christmas was "a horse". Anything to do with horses, riding, jumping, whether in the form of books, videos or clothing such as jodhpurs, puffs and so on would be welcome. "A sheepskin jacket" would be more than welcome but more realistically, records by her favourite groups of the moment, Wham! and Aha. A safer, though boring, bet would be record tokens, to avoid the risk of buying the wrong one. As a parting shot, Alison's final thought was "just give me the money, and I'll save up for my own horse."

Caroline Lambert (10½)
"For Christmas I would love a bicycle because my old one is much too small for me and I don't ride it any more but the trouble is Daddy never believes me. I would also like some roller skates with boots on them, for then I would skate

down the road and in the mews next door. As I've got a window box, I would like some seeds to put in it.

I would hate to be given stationary, because I've got loads already and I would not like clothes, because I get those just normally."

Thomas Bell (4)
"I would like a remote controlled car like Charlie's one that we can have races and lots of Play People. I don't want a Care Bear because my sister hates them but I do think boys can have them."



Care bears and transformer: Louisa (left) and Daniel Munch

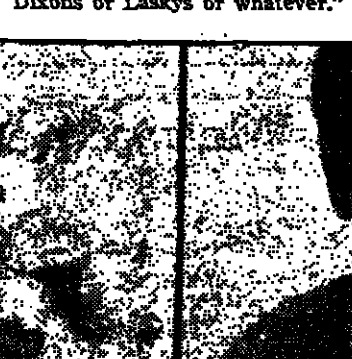
Louisa Munch (6)
"Dear Santa Claus, Please could I have a pram and a doll and some smarties and Shira and some pens and a pencil box."



A Rag dolls, like teddy bears, are back in favour. Laura, with her straw hat, frilled Liberty print dress and pink shoes, is 56p from Harrods of Knightsbridge, London, SW1. B. Chetkov (a mini-robot which recovers messages, moves forward, turns, speaks and delivers objects, all by remote control), £29.95 from Harrods. Hamleys and other toy departments. C. Faber's Rag Dolls for 45 minutes has 1.8 metre wings, space, ready-built, complete with accessories, £12.95 from Harrods. D. Radio controlled miniature Porsche 911, £65 from Harrods. E. Goes forward and into reverse, turns, stops and has two speeds. Runs on Ni-Cad batteries (don't forget to buy the charger as well, not included in the price), £35 from Harrods. F. One of the toys of the year—the Transformer. This one transforms from a spaceship to a robot and back. £29.95 from Harrods. G. Regent Street, London W1. G. Teddies, it seems, are back in favour. This one is the softest, most realistic one I've seen, a real old-fashioned bear, made from fireproof man-made fibre, well tested for safety (the eyes are almost impossible to pull out), 17½ inches high, £24.95 from Harrods. H. Beautifully hand-carved wooden, bi-plane in natural wood, with dark green propellers and wheels. By Rag Dolls of Devon, £12.95 from Harrods. I. New New, £29.95 from Harrods. J. Ford Sand-Bully 4x4 Off Roader with automatic winch and crane which can pull objects towards or behind the vehicle. Four-wheel drive, balloon tyres, headlights, removable hard-top and radio-control, £39.95 from Harrods. K. Charming old-fashioned wooden engine with carriages which attach magnetically, painted in a range of non-toxic colours. About 3 inches high, the engine with three carriages is £7.95 from Eric Smeeth, 32 The Market, Covent Garden, London WC2 (p+p £1.70).

Emma Bell (10½)
"I would like a radio so I can listen to music or something interesting while I am in bed. I would like books, books, books... I don't want a Care Bear, My Little Pony or a Wuzzle that you snuggle as I think they are all horrible."

Scott Kelly (15)
"I would like a synthesiser board—not a very sophisticated or expensive one but one from Dixons or Laskys or whatever."



Robert Kelly (17)
"I don't want to push my luck too far because I'm being given driving lessons but I wouldn't mind some clothes."

Rachel Pinsky (7)
"My best wish of all would be a car from Park Lane except you can't ask for things like that because they are too expensive for Father Christmas to be able to give everyone and anyway he couldn't manage to deliver them all. Also an Animal, a truck with claws concealed in the wheels. They come out when the truck hits an obstacle and helps it climb over. I hope I don't get any cash as its more fun to get the presents."

Darren Thompson (5)
Way back in October Darren first wrote to Father Christmas asking for "a transformer and a Zoidiller (a motorised prehistoric monster)". Since then, under the influence of television it seems, he has amended the list. "I would still like a transformer but could I also have a Road Ripper, Snake Mountain, Zoidiller, Lego, He Man and Dungeons and Dragons?"

Thames Valley University, 90 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 0LP. For the party props.

Jacqueline King (7)
"I would like a Wuzzle because they're funny, cuddly and don't look real. Also a desk, a white one with red trim and matching chair to tidy my papers so Daddy could stop complaining. I'd like an old-fashioned sort of rocking horse. I'd like to ride proper horses but when I get bored at home I could ride that instead. Then I'd like Rainbow Brite—I already have two dolls and would like the matching horse. You can do lots of things with their hair. I think they are cute."



Daniel Munch (4)
"Dear Father Christmas, Please can I have smarties and a He Man and a big transformer."



Leigh Robieson-Cleaver (15)
"What I'd really like is a stereo of my own, so that I could sit in my room with it blasting away. I'd also like crimpers—the ones that make your hair go into zigzags. And clothes. Black, gothic clothes. And lots of glitzy silver jewellery would be good."

Garden, for the party props.

Ben Hunt (6)
"What I'd like most is an Optimus Prime (a robot which transforms into a lorry) because my friend has got one but I've just joined the Lego club and I'd like some more of that, especially some with a motor to make robots."

Oliver Pauley (9)
"I'd really like the Megatron Transformer which is a robot which converts into two guns. It's one of the best big transformers I've seen. I also like Pneumatic Lego. We've got tons of Lego and Lego Technic but not Pneumatic which is new. I don't really mind what I get for Christmas because it's always fun but I'd hate to get a rubbishy book instead of a good book. And I'd hate to get a technical book about computers because I've got plenty of computer books with my computer. I'd rather have computer games. I'm not very keen on getting sweets because I always end up saving them until they go mouldy. I've got a chocolate rabbit somewhere which is two or three years old."

Peter Lambert (7)
"For Christmas, I want an Omnibot because it has lots of things joined on to it and it can do lots of things, such as it has a tape recorder joined on and I think they are great. I don't want some Lego, because I don't play with it at all."



Mark Otto Inman (15)
"I really want a personal stereo but my parents refuse to have me walking about the house twitching and with a tiny noise coming out of my ears. I like records (Queen, Slade, Dire Straits) or fashionable clothes (ie those I choose myself), but I need a new camera because I accidentally dipped mine in the sea last summer."

For Christmas I would like a Honda CR 125 RE. I would like this bike because I want to start Moto-Cross. Ever since I went to see my friend at school in a race I have become very interested in this sport. Also, a couple of months ago I went to see the world champion, Dave Thrope ride at Epsom. It was great, he won all of his races. I feel I could become a champion if I tried hard enough at it and I would like to get a sponsor if possible."

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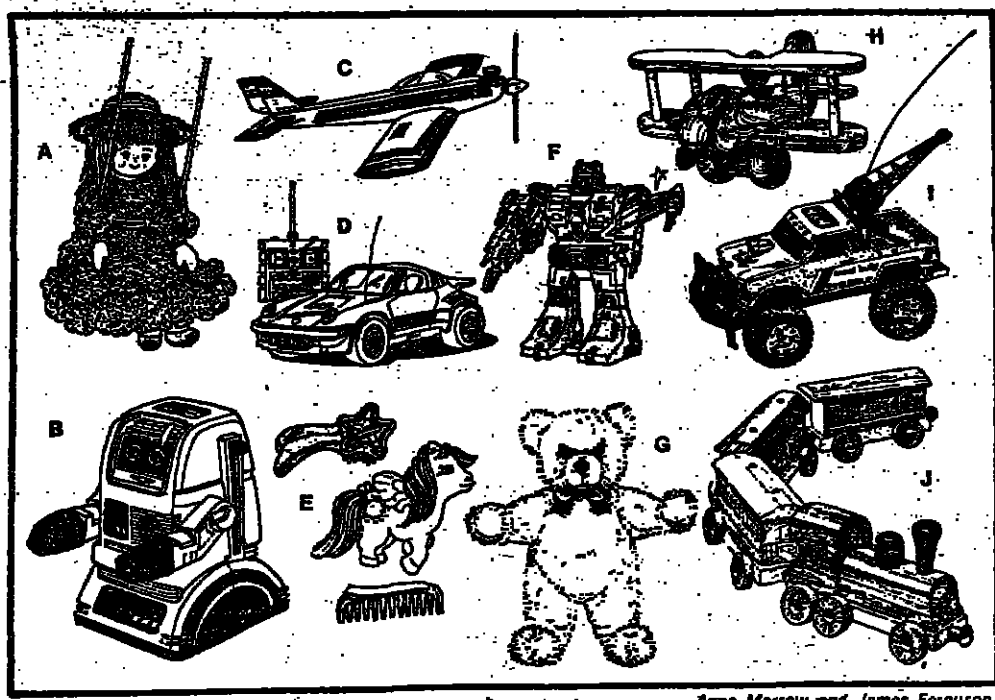
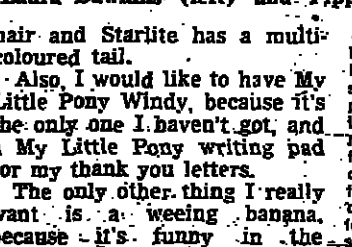
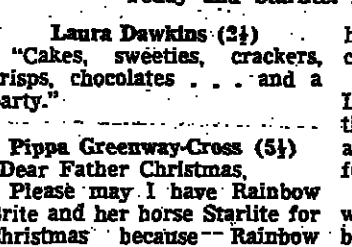
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Laura Dawkins (3½)
"Cakes, sweeties, crackers, crisps, chocolates... and a party."

Pippa Greenway-Cross (5½)
"Dear Father Christmas, Please may I have Rainbow Brite and her horse Starlite for Christmas because Rainbow Brite has a pretty bow in her

hair and Starlite has a multi-coloured tail. Also, I would like to have My Little Pony Windy, because it's the only one I haven't got, and a My Little Pony writing pad for my thank you letters. The only other thing I really want is a weeding banana, because it's funny in the bath."

Teddy and Starlite: Laura Dawkins (left) and Pippa Greenway-Cross



Anne Morrow and James Ferguson

Wine books

Vintage stuff

FORTUNATELY, most of this year's crop of wine books avoids the boredom of the round-the-vineyard primer, and they are written in an engaging manner. None more so than Oz Clarke's *Wine Factfinder and Taste Guide* (300 pp. Webster's Mitchell Beazley £9.95).

Not only is the book's large amount of accurate information to be admired, but also the way it is broken down under headings, such as What do I get for my money? It also has checklists evaluating quality, price and value for sample wines in every district.

The author maintains his enthusiasm all the way round the world, and his judgments on wines, growers and merchants are generally sound and fair, although he is hard on Burgundy, where standards are improving from the old days of blending and accelerated maturing.

In part I found the book a hard read because I find text in sans-serif type tiring to the eyes, especially in two- or three-column setting. The index, vital to a compendium of this size, is almost unreadable. Nevertheless this is an excellent work, that will undoubtedly increase the knowledge and pleasure of serious wine drinkers.

So, to should Tony Laithwaite's *Great Wine Trek* (128 pp. Harrop, £10.95). I first met him on a Chianti estate after he had driven non-stop from Calais, a distance of about 800 miles. His unflagging enthusiasm on that occasion still infects this book which is a whistle-stop tour of French vineyards.

Nicolas Bel-Frage's *Life beyond Lambrusco: understanding Italian fine wine* (306 pp. Sidgwick and Jackson, hardback £10.95, paperback £7.95) is a very serious, detailed account of Italy's wines as they are after 20 years of development and improvement since the DOC legislation in 1965. After describing the viticulture, the wine-making processes and the patchy wine laws, the book covers the wine regions.

It adds useful lists of wines according to zone and grape variety, followed by a critical 100-page section on selected growers he believes make exceptionally serious wines, some undervalued, not least in Britain. In the most concise current book on Italian wines, the author shows life not only exists beyond Lambrusco, but also beyond the common-organ garden Valpolicella, Soave and Chianti.

In Simon Loftus's entertaining *Anatomy of the wine trade: Abe's sardines and other stories* (192 pp. Sidgwick & Jackson hardback £10.95, paperback £5.95). I must declare my unhesitant inclusion among those he has chosen to write about. It will appeal most to wine drinkers sufficiently interested to read about some of the personalities and the way in which the trade works, particularly in Bordeaux.

It is by no means uncritical, but shows the wine trade is still supplied and sometimes directed by individuals more concerned to produce and sell good wines at every level than to make profits, essential though these are. Not only amusing, Simon Loftus's out-of-the-way wine book adds agreeably to our vinous education.

Much the same, though in a different way, might be said of *Asa Briggs' Wine for Sale: Victoria Wine and the liquor trade, 1860-1994* (199 pp. Batsford, £14.95). Under the cover of a history of the Victoria Wine Company, Professor Briggs has produced the elements of a history of the British wine trade and popular wine drinking since 1860, when Gladstone reduced the duty on table wine to 2d a bottle.

Very well researched, the book draws out interesting information from government bodies and shows we did not become a wine-drinking country as Gladstone and others hoped. Only in the past 20 years has wine-drinking begun to take off, as the supermarket chains have shown, while leaving Victoria Wine as the largest wine-selling concern in the country.

In *Wine lore, legends and traditions* (178 pp. Hamlyn, £8.95) Pamela Vandye, Price has compiled something between an anthology and a dictionary of miscellanea associated with wine. The amount of information is impressive and, recorded in conversational, personal style, covering everything from wine myths and varieties to its appearances: bottles, glasses, corkscrews, and so on. Full of anecdotes, it makes agreeable, informative bed-side reading.

The main routes are enlivened by hilarious stories that plainly have lost nothing in the telling: not least the account of a Papal audience given to the press corps on the liberation of Rome or the vinous side-effects of the military advance up the Rhine valley.

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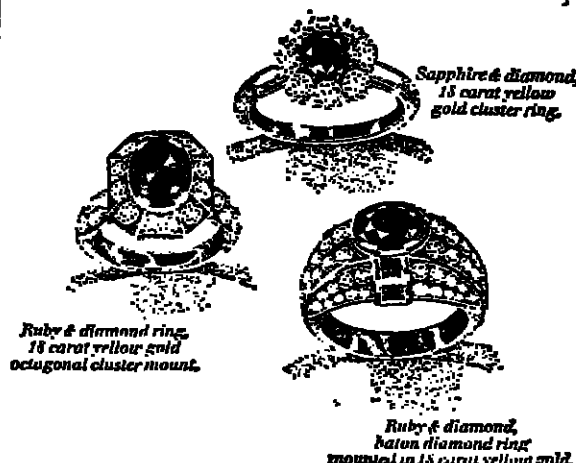
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TRAVEL • MOTORING



All singing, all dancing: Mauritians perform the Sega, the island's indigenous music

Tropical treasure house

AT LILONGWE you turn left, sweeping over the coastlands of Mozambique, passing high above the lofty mountains of Madagascar and heading down towards the tropic of Capricorn. And there sits Mauritius, scarcely a dot on the map, but a dot on which is housed in people, a tiny, polyglot, poly-chromatic, and poly-religious melange that bustles with activity under tropical skies.

Geographically it is tempting to do as many of the travel brochures do and lump the Seychelles and Mauritius together or offer them as similar alternatives. This is terribly misleading. The two could not be more different. The Seychelles islands are a group, with scarcely more than 60,000 people dotted fairly thinly over spectacularly rocky terrain (on the main island, at least). Mauritius is one large island, with a couple of off-shore dots and a dependency, Rodrigues, some 340 miles away. It has twice the population per square mile that the UK boasts, and its fertile plains provide vast quantities of sugar for the British market. The Seychelles are more scenic. Mauritius more interesting: the Seychelles more simple. Mauritius more sophisticated.

This sophistication extended, not long ago, to my losing the inevitable few pounds at the racetrack. At the Champs de Mar it does not take long to become sufficiently attuned to local betting techniques (why were the bookmakers all Chinese?) to have your wallet eased open. I must be grateful to the rain on that afternoon that I sometimes had to run faster than the horses (that is) to

escape both a soaking and further financial punishment. That's another thing about Mauritius: the weather is considerably more variable in wind and rain than the tropics. October, although September, December and November are generally the driest months. December to March the least windy (good news for the snorkellers) but this is the time the rain tends to come in short, sharp bursts.

Huge areas of Mauritius are devoted to sugar growing which, while efforts are being made to produce other crops, still dominates the economy of the island. As the harvest nears tall forests of sugar cane every road, once the sugar is cut, reveals in the open fields; they have been gathered from the earth over the years and marshalled like giant anthills as far as the eye can see.

Eucalyptus trees dot the lower ground, planted to soak up water and deter mosquitoes; pine trees have replaced the ancient hardwood forests, now as much part of the folk memory as the dodo; banyans have come in from India (along with the largest single ethnic slice of the population), the casuarines from Australia and flamboyants from Madagascar.

The importation of foreign plant life is an important string in the history of the island and the result can be seen at its best in the Pamphousses gardens, a treasure house of plants from around the world. The gardens, now a peaceful retreat of bright flowers and green

accessible Mauritian natural treasures are in its surrounding sea. I am not a fisherman and must take others' words for it that game fishing in the area is as good as anywhere else in the world and cheaper than most. Really deep waters lie only a few miles off shore and the fleet of hire boats, based at Black River, have only a short way to go before the action can start. The season is October to March.

My own tastes extend to the slightly less aggressive business of watching fish rather than catching them. In Mauritius there are remarkable coral gardens and a huge array of fish and shells. Perhaps thanks to the depths of the nearby ocean and the resultant chill of the waters in the winter months, diving without a wet suit is really only advised in the summer (our winter).

But it is neither the sea life nor the scenic attractions which provide the real fascination of Mauritius. For this we must turn to its people. With its Dutch, French and British colonial past, its African and Indian immigrants (one initially as slaves the other as low cost contract labour) and its salting of Chinese, Mauritius presents an extraordinary mixture of people, particularly since there has been a considerable degree of inter-marriage.

The various elements of this concoction reveal their individuality in language, with Hindi, English, French, and Creole floating across the market air (Creole is the standard language, English the official one); in religion; and in customs. With such a mix the year seems to be one long festival—Hindu Diwali (October), Muslim Id-ul-Fitr (November), the Christian Christmas and the Chinese New Year.

I stayed at three hotels, each excellent in their different ways. The Touessrou Sun, which owns a superb little island (the six corals) whence guests are ferried for water sports and al fresco meals; La Pirogue, with its thatched chalets and superb gardens and the Saint Germain Sun, set on a narrow peninsula with a central garden where the whistling frogs grovel the dusk. All these are Sun International hotels. The group can be contacted in London at 82 New Cavendish Street, W1M 7TA.

There are other good hotels on the island. Several tour operators offer packages to Mauritius, which is by far the best way to see the island. Typical prices range from £2,000 to £3,000 for a 12 night stay. Ask your travel agent for the Kunoil and Sovereign brochures and compare the offerings.

Arthur Sandles

BRIEFS

A NEW winter collection of dude ranch holidays, under the generic title American Round-Up, has been produced using the services of Northwest Orient Airlines. The programme, with offerings in such states as Colorado, California, Wyoming and Texas, has seven-night stays priced typically between £750 and £1,000 and complete with all meals and "ranch activities."

SWAN National Rentals has extended its weekend break programmes, which include hotels and car rental, to the Continent. Some 14 hotels in 11 locations in France are offered, including Paris. Prices start from £32 each for four adults sharing a Vauxhall Cavalier for three days; this includes the ferry crossing, of course.

P AND O Air Holidays has produced a series of Taj Weekends for those who have the inclination but not the time for the normal trip to India. In fact, the trips stretch the weekend a little (you leave on Thursday and return the following Tuesday morning), but still offer a great deal in a short stay. Prices range upwards from £585.

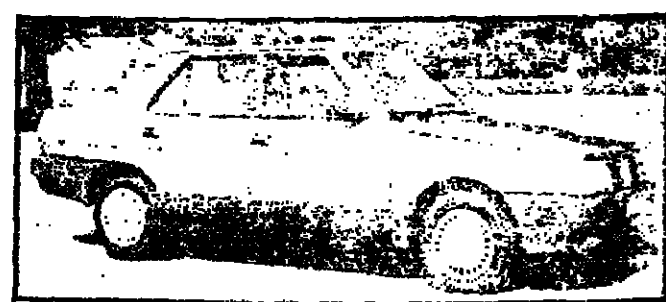
THE DE luxe hotel marketing chain, Leading Hotels of the World, has just accepted its first Chinese property. The White Swan in Guangzhou, with 569 rooms and 55 suites, is on Shumian Island and has panoramic views of the Pearl River.

TOWNSEND Thoresen has considerably expanded its programme of Continental weekend holidays for this winter. The trips are available for one two or three nights and offer various French and Benelux destinations. Prices range upwards from £25 per person.

EGON Romy gourmet weekends are a feature of the new Golden Rail short break programme for the winter months. The offering includes a "country style" series of trips and some short journeys to Europe.

JP The idea of a holiday in the Falklands is appealing then contact the Falkland Islands Department, Room WH 301, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, 29 Telford Street, London SW1P 3QZ. The lowest public air fare at the moment is £1,250 return, with some restrictions. The Island Group in Stanley charge £31 per person per day, full board, the Malvinas House £22 a day.

Fiat's diesel challenge



Fiat's Regata Diesel Super. Well equipped and good value, but not the most refined in its class

FIAT HAS followed Peugeot's footsteps and introduced a luxuriously equipped diesel saloon for buyers who want to cut fuel bills but refuse to be uncomfortable while doing so.

The Regata DS (for diesel super) has the same specification as the Regata 100 Super, with power-assisted steering, 5-speed gearbox, electric front windows, central locking and a wash/wipe system for its halogen headlights as standard. The driver's door mirror is adjustable and the rear seat backrest folds 60/40 to let oversized objects into the boot.

Its engine is a 1.9 litre, developing 65 bhp. Fiat says the top speed is 86 mph. This seems reasonable, though I doubt that it will impress many diesel car buyers as much as the fact that the Regata cruises quietly enough at 80 mph for the radio — a stereo/cassette player comes as part of the package — to be enjoyed.

The interior is nicely done, with seats that are plump and supportive and the boot is large. At £5,550 the Regata DS is competitively priced. How does it compare with the Peugeot 305SD, its most obvious adversary in the market?

The Regata is cheaper. The 305SD (this column September 21) costs £7,375 not including power steering, which at £290 extra makes the total £7,665. But it is not quite so simple as that. The Fiat does not have the Peugeot's standard power-operated sunroof or light alloy wheels, which would add at least £600 if fitted post-purchase. Perhaps the Fiat's main disadvantage — for the business user, at any rate — is its engine size. With 1.9 litres under the bonnet compared with the Peugeot's 1.7 litres, it comes into a higher tax class.

Even so, the Fiat is cheaper when the difference in specification is allowed for, which will endear it to private buyers who are not worried about such things as tax breaks. How do the cars measure up against one another on the road?

The Regata DS was not as refined as I had expected. All diesels knock when cold-started, but the rattle disappears as the engine warms up. Surprisingly, the Regata remained rather staid at normal running temperature, even when pulling hard, which is when most others, the Peugeot included, smooth out. The exhaust, too, was a bit vibrato at times.

Its ride is not as good as the Peugeot's, but this has been an area in which the French have

traditionally excelled. The styling is more up to date and the instrument layout far superior. There is not much to choose between either car in handling or roadholding when driven at sensible speeds.

In consumption, the official figures show the Peugeot to be much better in town (44.8 mpg against 39.8 mpg), marginally worse at a constant 50 mph (41.4 mpg against 42.8). At 75 mph, both cars return 43.5 mpg. In practice, I would expect to yield 50 mpg to a driver who is not in a hurry.

Fiat took a long time to decide to get in on the diesel car act in Britain, though it has been marketing them in Europe since 1978, when the 131 Mirafiori—Italy's answer to the Ford Cortina—appeared with a massive 2.1-litre engine originally made for light trucks. Barring the 126 and Panda, every Fiat is now made in a diesel version. I have tried most of them and rate the 1.3 litre Uno diesel particularly highly. It could provide real competition for the Peugeot 205, which at present rules the roost in the small diesel segment.

Every year, the diesel car becomes more popular in Britain, though we have a long way to go before we can match its 26.3 per cent market penetration in Italy, 13.7 per cent in France and 12.5 per cent in Germany. In the first nine months of this year, we bought 52,743 diesel cars, more than in the whole of 1982, when 45,382 were registered. This year's total could be 70,000, with 100,000 registrations, perhaps in 1986. In 1980, only 5,828 were sold here.

Eighteen per cent of Britain's fleets run diesel cars now, against only 10 per cent last year. Another factor is repeat purchase. Once you buy a diesel and get used to its reliability as well as lower fuel consumption, you tend to buy another.

Stuart Marshall

BRIEFS

● Diesel fuel does not freeze, but its paraffin wax content may crystallise at very low temperatures, blocking the filter and stopping the engine. Additives get round the problem, but the best answer is a heater in the fuel line. Lucas CAV has just introduced the D-Wax 200 fuel heater, which fits between the head and the body of the filter. It is suitable for most diesel cars, comes into operation automatically when needed, and costs £15, plus V.A.T. Details from Lucas CAV at 01-743 3111.

● Two more diesel cars have been introduced to Britain: a Fiat Ritmo 1.3 diesel, and a Renault 5 diesel. Both have a 1.3 litre engine, turbocharged with an intercooler and are as well equipped as their petrol-engined counterparts, with power steering, central locking, tilt adjustable steering and belts for all seats. The Renault 5 diesel costs £9,295, the Fiat Ritmo automatic from £9,599. Apart from the 140 mph Stratos coupe, all Mitsubishi cars sold here are now offered with a diesel option.

● Ford scooped the pool in the Caravan Club's Tower of the Year competition. In first place was the 2S RV6 named Sierra XR4i, with permanently engaged four-wheel drive, followed by the 2-litre fuel-injected Granada fitted with Ford's new 4-speed automatic transmission.

● Stop calling the overtaking lane on motorways the fast lane. The Guild of Experienced Motorists, points out that everyone from Minister of Transport Mrs Lynda Chalker to broadcasters and motorist correspondents are guilty of this mislabelling. The outside lane is not for fast drivers to stay in over long periods, but for overtaking, afterwards returning to the nearside lane.

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First past the winning-post

HORSE-RACING AND RACING SOCIETY
by Jocelyn de Moubray.
Sidgwick & Jackson, £12.95.
168 pages

THE FAST SET
by George Plumptre. André Deutsch, £12.95, 176 pages

TALES OF RACING AND CHASING
by Terry Biddlecombe. Stanley Paul, £7.95, 87 pages

THE DUBAI Champion Stakes, run at Newmarket in October, produced one of the most scintillating performances of the flat-racing season. Par Eddery sitting motionless on Pebbles two furlongs from home while all around him were already hard at work was an unforgettable sight. The presentation ceremony, however, reminded onlookers of the dependence of British racing on foreign investment. The Maktooms, the ruling family of Dubai, put up £50,000 of the £100,000 prize money while the winning owner was Sheikh Mohammed, one of the three Maktoom brothers who since 1980 have played an increasingly important role in shaping British racing.

Mr de Moubray tells us in *Horse-racing and Racing Society* that the Maktooms are certainly not in it for the money—each is reputed to have a weekly income in excess of \$1m. However, the author is clearly unhappy about the influence of foreign investors. Pebbles' performance in the Champion Stakes was ironic in a sense because wealthy owners and breeders seem often to forget that racing is an entertainment industry as well as a commercial operation. The constant search for reward to sustain the massive sums involved in acquiring and breeding potential top-class winners, and the risk of seeing that reward dissipated, does not encourage entertainment. Golden Fleece and Secret, winners of the Derby in 1982 and last year, ran in only seven races between them.

The author believes that commercialism has got such a grip

on horseracing that the industry's structure and purpose are at risk. However, as he says himself, a general collapse is unlikely, although the racing world must move with the times and must be aware that it is an entertainment industry and one that relies on foreign investment.

To put the current state of horseracing in perspective, the author traces how the industry has evolved in the past century—from the early days of the aristocracy, most of whom were owner, breeder and trainer rolled into one, through the era of the entertainer owners, the Aga Khan and the years of French domination, to the present period of crisis.

In spite of the gloom, British racing remains the best and most varied in the world. Mr de Moubray has written an entertaining book that covers a lot of ground and will also stimulate thought.

The Edwardian era is regarded as the most glittering period in racing history when society, led by the Prince of Wales, Edward VII, adopted the sport as its favourite past-time. In *The Fast Set* George Plumptre brings a lively style to a lively period. Those fortunate enough to be part of the set ensured that they enjoyed themselves to the full: scandal abounded; reputations and fortunes were made and lost.

The period produced the first and, so far, only Prime Minister to own a Derby winner, the fifth Earl of Rosebery. Colourful characters were to be met by the score. Caroline, Duchess of Montrose, for example, who, twice married and aged 70, was heard to say: "I never allow any man into my bedroom."

Mr Alex Taylor (her trainer) and he is always welcome.

The book contains many fascinating photographs with brief but informative captions. The most dramatic shot captures the moment when a suffragette ran in front of the King's horse in the 1913 Derby. Emily Davidson received fatal injuries; Jockey and horse survived. It was, as Mr Plumptre says, a tragic manner in which to end the period but at the same time which was developing and would shatter the halcyon stability of Edwardian society.

One feels Terry Biddlecombe, three times National Hunt Champion Jockey in the 1990s, would not have been out of place in the Edwardian racing fraternity. He likes to enjoy himself and does his best to see the funny side of the most embarrassing situations. In *Tales of Racing and Chasing*, "Bidders," with the help of Jeff Farmer and illustrator Jake Tebbitt, makes the most of the opportunity to recount anecdotes about himself and many others involved in the game.

Jeremy Bennallack-Hart



Terry Biddlecombe: from the horse's mouth

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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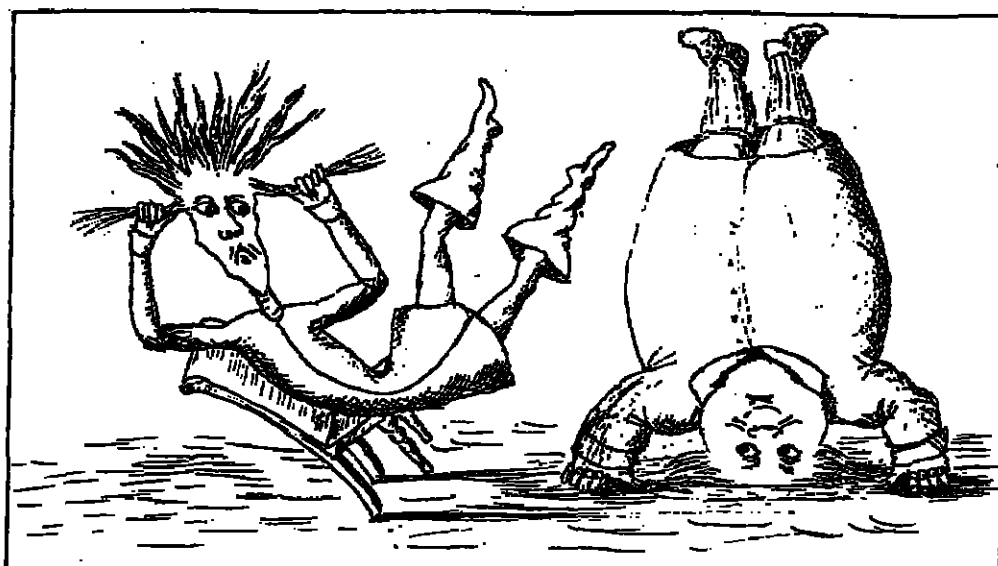
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This week's page is devoted to reviews with Christmas in mind



One of Lewis Carroll's own illustrations to "Alice's Adventures Underground," reviewed below

Hockney and high-water

THE DAVID HOCKNEY book boom continues. Latest volume is *Martha's Vineyard and other places* by My Third Sketchbook from the Summer of 1982 (Thames & Hudson, £10). This is a facsimile reproduction in a slipcase of the artist's own workbooks complete with marbled boards, friends' phone-numbers and two torn-out pages; also a separate limp-backed introduction booklet based on conversations with Hockney in which he explains how he relies on the preliminary off-the-cuff sketches.

The ones reproduced here, portraits, interiors, landscapes, are typical in their wild exuberance and colourful immediacy. A steep price, but fascinating. To set up a London version of the New Yorker is a recurrent dream—or nightmare—among magazine publishers. Briefly, before world war two, the dream became a reality in the pages of *Night and Day* edited by Graham Greene and John Marks. Its life-span was weekly from July to December 1937, terminated after a libel suit, filed on behalf of the child film-actress Shirley Temple. While it lasted the magazine fared well. "Here you will find Miss Elizabeth Bowen reviewing the theatre," declared the first editorial "while Mr Evelyn Waugh does books, Mr Graham Greene looks at the films, and other critics purr or wince at the offerings of Fashion, Art, Sport, etc." An anthology of this period-piece has long been overdue and now we have it, in the original illustrated format, edited by Christopher Hawtree (Chatto & Windus, £12.95, 278 pages).

Past Christmases have brought several books containing those dice and board games that helped to while away leisure-time in the pre-television era. This year in *The Great Games Book* (A & C Black, £5.95) we have 14 specially invented new board-games by various ingenious hands. Well, sort of new—it is difficult to think of a really new game, but even the

old ones here are charmingly re-fashioned; for example, Ludo Park arranged in the manner of a formal garden, by Angela Barrett. Dice and counters are not provided.

Alice watched a mad croquet game and a strange form of chess but nothing so innocent as Ludo. Now we have a facsimile of Carroll's early manuscript version of *Alice's Adventures Underground* (Pavilion Michael Joseph, £9.95) in his own beautiful calligraphic script and his drawings which to my eye are superior to those of the artist. Carroll's introduction by Mary St. Clair, Alice Liddell's only grandchild, makes the book a must for Wonderland enthusiasts.

Carroll used to receive a great many letters from children to which he patiently replied; so, too, did that later Oxford don who became most famous as an author of fantastic stories C. S. Lewis. His *Letters to Children* have just been published edited by Lyle W. Dorsett and Marjorie Mead (Collins, £8.95, 120 pages). Unlike Carroll, C. S. Lewis sometimes offered a thumping literary judgment: "Dear Martin... congratulations... on escaping Cicero who, to my mind, is the greatest bore (except possibly Ben Jonson, Laurence Sterne, and Mr Humphrey Ward) of all authors whether ancient or modern."

Another Lewis, well known in the world of children's books, Miss Naomi Lewis, has come up with a poetry anthology, *Messages* (Faber and Faber, £7.95, 255 pages), full of good things and clearly the product of wide, eclectic reading in this field.

By contrast most of the poets in Donald Hall's anthology, *The Oxford Book of Children's Verse in America* (Oxford, £15, 319 pages), will be unfamiliar to British children and their parents, but nonetheless they should prove enjoyable. The tradition is a longstanding one

and it is nice for us to be presented with it.

Schoolchildren no longer have to learn poetry by heart as part of their education, but one or two places still have competitions for verse-speaking before an audience. I did not notice a photograph of the annual Declaration Prize in Mark Dixon's *An Eton Schoolboy's Album* (Dobbert, £10.95), but many other aspects of the life of the place are caught by the camera of a boy who finished there in 1980.

An attractive approach to Shakespeare these days is the comic-strip where the poet's verse balloons out of the pictures. The latest is a vivid art deco *Shakespeare's Night's Dream* illustrated by Von (Michael Joseph, £5.95). Meanwhile, Shakespeare in the Public Records (HMSO, £2.95, 40 pages) contains all those documents relating to the bard held in the PRO, photographed, translated and explained. Even now the experts are not in complete agreement as to how the plays were actually staged. Some of the most recent research on this is contained in R. A. Foakes's *Illustrations of the English Stage 1580-1642* (Scolar Press, £35.00, 180 pages) a handsome and illuminating tome.

Finally, the editor of *The Saturday Book* which no longer appears, alas, has had the interesting idea in *Every Picture Tells a Story* (The Herbert Press, £10.95, 160 pages) of an anthology of such Victorian paintings, such as Orchardson's *Truism*, which make one ask what happened, to the people depicted. Each painting chosen is reproduced on the left-hand page and Mr Hadfield adds his comments on the right. Sometimes the story is self-explanatory and sometimes it can be interpreted in a variety of meanings. A long way from Hockney—or is it?

Anthony Curtis

For Children

Pigs, rodents and boys

AN INTRIGUING mix of realism and fantasy is the key element in one of the most outstanding young children's picture books for some time: *I'll Take You To Mrs Cole* (Andersen Press, 32 pp, £5.95). By Nigel Grey with exceptional illustrations by Michael Foreman. The central character is a lonely, imaginative boy who lives with his mother in an inner city tower block.

The book's title is the threat used by his mother every time the boy misbehaves; Mrs Cole is a wild-looking creature who inhabits a tumble-down house with an assortment of ragamuffin children. Does Mrs Cole cook her offspring in stews? Does she force them to work and whip them to keep them awake?

No, of course she does not. The boy's fantasies about the family and his eventual encounter with them is a witty delight and the illustrations, gradually suffused with warmth as the story develops, are masterly. One very small quibble: the cover rather gives away the ending.

Rumer Godden's seasonal tale *The Story of Holly and Ivy* has been reissued by Julia MacRae (32 pp, £6.25) with charming illustrations by Barbara Cooney. First published in 1957, it tells the touching story of an orphan girl and a lonely old brought together by love on Christmas Day.

The same publisher has produced an attractive edition of the classic poem *The Night Before Christmas* (26 pp, £4.95) by Clement Moore with affectionate Victorian-style illustrations by Anita Lobel.

A seasonal tale with a difference is *Spirit Child* (Hodder and Stoughton, 30 pp, £5.95). An Aztec version of the native story, translated by John Bierhorst. It is illustrated by Barbara Cooney.

The *Miracle Child* (Collins, 32 pp, £1.95), is an unusual book about the Ethiopian saint Tekla Haymanot. The colour illustrations are from an 18th century manuscript and the story is told by Elizabeth Laird

with Abba Aregawi Wolde Gabriel. Profits go to Oxfam's Ethiopian famine appeal. For children who prefer to be scared rather than wooed by words Jean Richardson has selected *Old Feet*: an anthology of Scary Stories (Hodder and Stoughton, 128pp, £6.95). Animal lovers will enjoy *Pet Stories for Children* (Faber and Faber, 190pp, £5.95). Edited by Sara and Stephen Corrin with illustrations by Jill Bennett.

Animal books are always popular and this year's batch of books features a consider-

able menagerie. Inga Moore's *The Truffle Hunter* (Andersen Press, 25pp, £5.95) uses exquisite pastoral pictures alongside the biography of Marlene, the town pig who infuriates her master by her inability to sniff out the edible black fungus. He abandons her in the Dordogne woods and there she learns the secret of truffle hunting, and finds true love.

A small mongrel is the heroine of Jill Cooper's *Little Mabel Saves the Day* (Granada, 32pp, £4.95). This comic tale of a city dog's eventual country holiday is illustrated by Timothy Jacques. Bob Graham's *Libby, Oscar and Me* (Blackie, 33pp, £5.50) is the simple story of a little girl, who likes to think she is a mistress of disguise, and her cat and dog companions.

Air, delicate farmyard pictures by Agnes Mathieu illustrate Ingrid Osheeren's *Jonathan Mouse* (North-South, 22 pp, £5.95). The dictum "you are what you eat" is given a new meaning when the eponymous rodent falls under a spell and assumes the colour of his most recent meal; carrot

orange, cabbage green and forget-me-not blue. A gentle, funny book only slightly marred by the American spellings ("color", "gray") which could confuse new readers.

A boy tries to teach a small bird how to fly in *The Fledgling* by Petra Szabo (Hutchinson, 27 pp, £5.95) after learning that human contact will ostracise the creature from its own species. After days of false starts and disappointments, the boy hits on the ingenious idea of using his kite to train the fledgling.

A human companion is *Hem's Pet* (Angus and Robertson, 25 pp, £4.95). A boy enters his younger sister in the school pet show. Despite protests from his classmates ("she doesn't have four legs," "neither does the budgie") they come away with a prize for originality, not to mention sentimentality. The text is by Joan de Hamel and the clever, hazy pictures by Christine Ross.

This year's novels for older readers include a reissue of *The Mystery of the Colonel's Clock* (Goodchild, 191pp, £5.95), by the Carnegie Medal winner Philip Turner. Robert Cormier's *The Chocolate War* (Gollancz, 253pp, £7.95), a compelling contemporary school story; and Connell Bernard's attractively presented reminiscences of his childhood on the Welsh borders. *Now the Day is Over* (Viking, 176pp, £5.95).

The most exciting contemporary novel for the 11-plus age group comes from the American journalist Nat Hentoff. *The Day They Came to Arrest the Book* (Angus and Robertson, 188pp, £6.95), is essentially a book about ideas: about civil liberties and about the conflict between freedom of speech and freedom of the individual. Set in an ordinary high school, the book describes moves by anti-racist groups and the moral majority to ban Huckleberry Finn from the library shelves. The arguments are lively and exciting but never overwhelm the pacy narrative nor the snappy humour.

Annalena McAfee

Photography

Guns through lens

ROBERT CAPA was labelled the greatest war photographer in the world. In 1938 after spending just over two years on the battlefields of Spain and China. His career ended 20 years later when he was blown up by a mine in the French Indo-China war. By then he had covered the Spanish Civil War, the Japanese invasion of China, the Second World War and the Israeli War for Independence. He was famous as the man who always got the best pictures because he took the greatest risks, photographing in the very midst of battle.

But his sister, Cornelia Capa, and his biographer, Robert Whelan, who have edited *Photographs* (Faber and Faber, £15.00), a collection of 262 examples of Capa's work, stress that it was people, not war, that interested Capa most. In addition to the shots taken in the heat of battle there are equally memorable ones showing people on the fringes of the action—faces on a departing troop train, a chess game behind the lines, and the civilian population, refugees, collaborators, children—pictured amidst the devastation that war has wreaked on their lives.

Capa was an attractive and likeable man whose friends included Ernest Hemingway, John Steinbeck, Gary Cooper, Gene Kelly, John Huston, and Pablo Picasso as well as his distinguished colleagues, Henri Cartier Bresson and André Kertész. The story of how Capa, son of a middle-class Jewish Hungarian family, arrived in Berlin alone and penniless at the age of 17, exiled for political agitation and went on to become one of the greatest photographers of his generation is told by Robert Whelan in an absorbing biography.

Robert Capa (Faber and Faber, £15.00). He was a brave and compassionate man with great charm and a very sense of humour. Whelan's account of the risks he took to get the best pictures makes exciting reading which is balanced by descriptions of the long weeks Capa spent hanging around in London, Paris or New York.

The war photographs in *To the Bitter End* (Viking, £12.95) were often, like Capa's, taken in the midst of battle, but this time chiefly by amateurs. Emanuel Lee has written a history of the Boer War around his own collection of contemporary photographs, most of which are previously unpublished. *The Boer War* (1899-1902) coincided with the introduction of the Folding Pocket Camera, the Kodak Brownie, and Eastman's famous slogan "You press the button, we do the rest." Many soldiers carried their own cameras for the first time in that war, and the results, while sometimes imperfect, give a vivid human perspective to Dr Lee's very readable history, emphasising the chaos and improvisation which are an inevitable part of any war.

Photographs (Hamish Hamilton, £12.95) by Prince Andrew has been greeted by some quite unnecessary sneers and dismissed as a collection of amateur apprentice work. It does not pretend to be anything else, and in spite of a wish to the contrary expressed in Prince Andrew's modest and amusing introduction, his exceptional photographic efforts become quite disproportionately fascinating simply because they are taken by a member of the Royal Family.

As Prince Andrew himself acknowledges, this gives him all sorts of privileges, not only

licence to photograph the royal collections and climb all over the roofs of the royal palaces, but also the chance to borrow Mummy's Hasselblad. I imagine that a vast number of people with no interest at all in photography would be very pleased to find this among their Christmas gifts.

Portraits of the British Cinema—60 Glorious Years (Arum Press, £11.95). Authors John Russell Taylor and John Kobal have raided the archives of the British film industry to assemble this extensive collection of publicity stills and portraits of British stars. They concentrate on the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s, heyday of the glamorous studio portrait. Merle Oberon, Charles Laughton, Leslie Howard, Vivien Leigh, Diana Dora, Dirk Bogarde and many more stars are pictured at their very best. The background history is explained in a well-researched text which adds greatly to the interest of the photos.

Special Effects (J. M. Dent, £12.95) by Robert Haas approaches its topic through the work of an international selection of accomplished and innovative photographers. Robert Haas, Irving Penn, Joel Meyerowitz, David Hockney and Haas himself, among others. Haas argues that *Special Effects* should be seen as an integral part of a great photograph rather than merely a gimmick to be copied mechanically. The illustrations, in both colour and black and white, prove this point well. This is not really a "how-to-do-it" manual although techniques are explained in broad terms, but it is more a survey of current technical practices set firmly in their artistic context.

Alannah Hopkin

Theatre

Who played what and why

THE PUBLICATION of *A History of the Theatre by John Russell Taylor and Gyles Brandreth* has been reissued in soft back (both Pavilion, £8.95, 186 pages), both lavishly illustrated and attractively compiled.

The late lamented Leonard Rossiter is fit company for those great names and Leonard Rossiter by Robert Tanitch (Robert Royce, £9.95, 191 pages) is worthy of his memory, inter-leaving pictorial material with appreciative critical comment from colleagues in theatre and television.

Simon Gray's *An Unnatural Pursuit* (Faber, £10.95, also

paperback £4.95, 244 pages) is a witty production diary of a tortured, paranoid playwright. It is far more interesting, in fact, than the play whose evolution and demise it charts. Gray sees enemies everywhere, long before he reads the bad notices for *The Common Pursuit* at the Lyric, Hammersmith. Gray is a writer of mordant wit and considerable elegance and not least of the joys here is the portrait of Harold Pinter, his director, an untouchable in black.

Michael Coveney

CHILDRENS' BOOKS

OF THE MONTH

Announcements below are prepaid advertisements. If you require entry in the forthcoming panels, application should be made to the Advertisement Department, Bracken House, 10 Cannon Street, EC4A 3DF. Telephone 01-348 8000 ext 4064. Order and payment for books should be sent to the publishers and not to the Financial Times.

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Rex Whistler's flowing line

THE LAUGHTER AND THE UNK: THE LIFE OF REX WHISTLER by Laurence Whistler. Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £14.95, 322 pages.

A BIOGRAPHY written by a close relative offers an ambitious perspective, part autobiographical, part certain intimacies but debarring from others. Laurence Whistler was the younger brother by six years, 15 months separated from Rex, the eldest, who died of pneumonia aged 11. It took many years for the two remaining brothers to grow close and even then, despite Rex's constant generosity (towards his elderly parents too) some rub remained; it surfaces in these pages. Using the metaphor of the chair-lift, Laurence Whistler describes himself hoisted into the chair behind Rex. "But mine showed signs of straining from the first, and I have been trudging downhill through the snow ever since."

The parents' marriage took place against a background of disapproval (trade driving prodigies) and from his late teens Rex moved in circles both socially and artistically demanding. After a disastrous start at the Royal Academy Schools he went to the Slade, where the benevolent Professor Tonnens watched over him. Problems could be foreseen for his immensely able student, since "social engagements play so large a part in the artist's life." It was no accident that when Rex went to the British School in Rome and found himself almost unable to work, he made a contact who helped him break his block. Lord Berners, address No. 3 The Forum, took Rex up, encouraged, entertained and fortified him around.

Rex Whistler was 20 when he painted the Tate Gallery Refreshment Room murals for Lord Duveen—the job obtained for him by Tonnens. From then until the war, he divided his time between murals, book illustration and stage design. He failed to become a war artist, being judged "insufficiently serious." He died on active service in Normandy in the last months of the war. Ironically, his particular talent, speed of execution, extraordinary visual recall and razor-sharp powers of observation suggest the ideal war artist.

This biography describes a rather chameleon-like figure; clearly homosexual (undoubtedly so, his girl friends agreed), yet staging a number of very public love affairs—beginning with Tishina Bankhead, an ambitious star of an utterly inexperienced 29-year-old. The members of his social set were uniformly rich and often titled;

his bulwark the curious friendship, begun at the age of 19 he made with a woman more than 30 years his senior; Edith Olivier—intelligent, a snob and utterly devoted to him for the rest of his life. Her house, near Wilton House, became home and her influence greater than that of his own mother—"a kind, pretty governess". She was disgusted by his father "an awful little clerk."

"Rex cannot be his son" and alarmed by Laurence's adolescent socialism ("it made me hate him").

In Rex's and her circle, such judgments (made in the privacy of her journal) were the norm. It was an elite world, assessed with trivialities and people with some remarkably unpleasant characters. A few exceptions, such as Lord Anglesey (who commissioned the dining-room murals at Plas Newydd), shine through. There are moments in this biography when the vacuous charm, the posing and the unremitting partying wear thin but, finally, Rex Whistler's light-heartedness and humanity in the harsh contrast of wartime bring their justification of his attitudes.

Virginia Woolf characterised him as "clever, scruffy, inarticulate Rex Whistler," he emerges as the opposite. Perfect dinner guest, too eager to please but above all a man who never pushed himself, in life or art, into the fray. The melancholy of that realisation was not lost on him. This is an oddly written book — "That Sunday the light was truly speaking in patrician trees around the house," is no more disconcerting than many other sentences — it is often inconsequential, but also poignant; it suggests the closing of a hitherto unfinished episode.



The gardener in the hot-house: one of Rex Whistler's drawings for Harcourt-Smith's story, *The Last of Uptake*

Gillian Darley

cial deregulation—and of the advances in technology which have made the whole thing possible. The book is up to date—taking in events up to this summer—and far reaching, covering Lloyd's and the Euro-dollar market as well as the Stock Exchange and the newly-emerging financial conglomerates.

Like any good book on the City, it is rich in trivia, such as the story of how Midland Bank came close to buying the banking firm of Simon and Coates, apparently without knowing that its merchant banking subsidiary, Samuel Montagu, was well on the way to tying the knot with W. Grenfell. And even when they are not bawling up to date, the authors' judgments are always interesting.

In Lloyd's for instance, they suggest that the new constitution introduced in 1982 may be fatally flawed. Most of the real power still lies with the professionals, yet the driving force for reform has been an outsider—Mr Ian Hay Davison, the independent chief executive, who was backed by the authority of the Bank of England.

This outcome they write was certainly not intended by Parliament. It must be questionable whether it is the best way to regulate Lloyd's since the Bank of England, unlike the Department of Trade, is simply not equipped with the resources and expertise necessary to monitor the insurance market.

Mr Hay Davison, who handed in his resignation earlier this month may silently concur.

Overall, though, the authors' view of the City revolution is somewhat uncertain. On the one hand, they recognise that change was inevitable if London was to remain an important financial centre. On the other, they seem to fear that the risks may outweigh the rewards.

All the historical precedents, [they comment gloomily] suggest that deregulation has a habit of slipping out in all sorts of unexpected directions. Over the longer term, though, markets which are more competitive and more transparent than they have traditionally been in the City of London ought to be better places in which to do business.

Richard Lambert

All change City

THE SQUARE MILE: A GUIDE TO THE NEW CITY OF LONDON by John Plender and Paul Wallace. Century, £9.95, 246 pages.

ONE OF THE most radical and irreversible changes brought about under the leadership of Mrs Thatcher has been more a matter of accident than of design.

Exchange controls were lifted in 1979 as part of a broader strategy designed to deal with the impact of North Sea oil on the economy. Four years later, when the Government agreed to release the Stock Exchange from the shackles of the Restrictive Practices Court in exchange for an end to fixed commissions, the agreement was widely condemned as a sell-out by the Conservatives in favour of their City friends.

Yet these two changes have led to a fundamental upheaval in the structure and character of Britain's financial community. Taken together, they have broken down rigid and long-established barriers between different segments of the national and international financial markets. Corsets which had been preserved since before the First World War have crumbled away in the space of a few years.

The changes have been so rapid and comprehensive that even some of those most directly involved have lost sight of the big picture. For many people the City revolution is little more than a newspaper cliché. Yet its repercussions will be widespread. The City, which had been one of Britain's few success stories in recent decades, is facing a period of great uncertainty and risk. The British system of investor protection is having to be restructured more or less completely. It things go wrong the damage will not be confined just to a handful of City slickers.

The Square Mile: a Guide to the New City of London, is modestly described by its authors as an interim guide rather than a definitive volume. Its chief value is in that it sets the record in the context of recent history, of the international pattern of finan-



"Les Misérables" ends its run at the Barbican tonight, but transfers to the Palace on December 4

Take a musical spin

One of the things the French are not renowned for is musicals. Popular culture stops at the operetta and dives straight thence to jazz, pop and the cinema. Which is just one reason why *Les Misérables* (Safari Records Encore 1 or, in the original 1980 French version, TRIMA 310 196) is so remarkable.

All sorts of heartfelt snobberies and misgivings have been sired over this rousing, spectacular musical of which the recording is released to coincide with the opening at the Palace Theatre next month (on December 4) after its Barbican season. Reviewing the first night, I ventured that the music sounded like Verdi crossed with Andrew Lloyd Webber. There are Verdian aspects to Claude-Michel Schönberg's score — Colin Wilkinson's wonderful "Polka" — "Bring Him Home" confirms—but the two record Safari album points up lots of indigenous Gallic oompah, as well as a top class torch song, "On My Own," skillfully handled by Frances Ruffelle.

That song may have prompted a recent remark that the show sounds like Jacques Brel writing for Shirley Bassey. Well, you may sneer in agreement, but I like the idea of that combination. The Act One finale "One Day More" is exciting still, and Terbert Krutizer's new lyrics bear a second hearing, especially in the "Thénardiers' "Miser of the House."

Roger Allam's Javert sounds over-theatrical on disc, but that is because he has less recording studio experience than the admirable Mr Wilkinson or, I imagine, Michael Ball whose superbly sung Marius has been under-appreciated. The French version has a fruitier coarseness about it, especially in the brass section, but that is just a single album taster.

There is nothing coarse, or fruity, about the album of the current West End revival of *Gigi* (Safari Records Gizi 1), the only item in this batch to be a non-digital recording. Lerner and Loewe's 1958 screen-play was a Broadway flop in 1973 and a lukewarm success in London this year. The singing here is execrable, Geoffrey Burridge, for instance, quite under-equipped for the emotional and musical complexity of the title song in which he notes Gigi's transformation and tows with his response to it. "Thank Heaven for Little

Girls," sung by Jean-Pierre Aumont, sounds merely smutty, the rest of the score either tinny or Palm Court or frequently both. "I'm Glad I'm Not Young Anymore" is a ghastly and depressing acknowledgement of defeat.

More abundant and cheerful is *Me and My Girl* (EMI 11 240 301 1, also cassette), the "Lambeth Walk" musical that has hit up the Adelphi all year and catapulted Robert Lindsay into the Michael Crawford musical comedy class. You could only buy this record if, like me, you had enjoyed the show; it is not an indispensable collector's item, but a radiant memory-jogger.

Without Stephen Sondheim, the Broadway musical theatre would be in a parlous state. The point is well illustrated by *My Favourite Thing* (RCA-6147, also cassette and CD), a tedious folk/country score by Roger "King of the Road" Miller which won no less than seven 1985 Tony awards; Sondheim lay low this year, so there was no one else to honour. *Big River* is a luck Finn hoe-down, competent but desperately unoriginal in its use of blues, Dixie, jazz and gospel idioms. The album is well-produced, with notable singing from Ron Richardson as the slave Jim.

I would be surprised if *Big River* came to London. *La Cage aux Folles* (RCA-BL 34824, also cassette and CD), a tedious folk/country score by Roger "King of the Road" Miller which won no less than seven 1985 Tony awards; Sondheim lay low this year, so there was no one else to honour. *Big River* is a luck Finn hoe-down, competent but desperately unoriginal in its use of blues, Dixie, jazz and gospel idioms. The album is well-produced, with notable singing from Ron Richardson as the slave Jim.

Also slated for London in May is the computer rock pop opera *Chess* (RCA PL7050012), two records, also cassette and CD) by Tim Rice and Abba singers/composers Benny Andersson and Bjorn Ulvæus. The London Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Anders Eljas, is wasting its time with most of the score which is heavy with flatulent orchestral strutting: cinematic schmalz and second-rate Lloyd Webber recitative. But the story of love among the chess champions has theatrical possibilities and draws on the now dated East/West confrontation of Spassky and Fischer. Korchagin's defection is in there too. Will Mr Rice update

Theatre

Gone to the docks

IT IS a far cry from the Hayward Gallery, the Royal Victoria Dock, the "Homage to Barcelona" binge took an unexpected east-bound turn for the worse on Thursday night with a presentation by the Institute of Contemporary Arts and the London Docklands Development Corporation of *La Fura dels Dans* ("Vermin from the sewers") in Shed 4 on the Tilbury tundra.

Shed 4 boasts, they say, the largest unsupported roof in Europe. It was indeed an awesome sight for the cheerful few huddled shivering trend-spotters disgorged from the Dockland Clipper buses which had ferried us from the ICA. You could have run a mile and still not bumped into a fellow participant. Flames at floor level flickered along a central aisle; all very ritual, very Café La Mamma in their mid-1970s Trojan Women phase.

We milled around, smiling nervously at a management "all materials used are in offensive and washable." A band appeared on a raised platform playing heavy old-fashioned figure materialised covered in mud. Like some dreadful performance artist, this creature splashed one or two of us, glared into the middle distance, tipped a barrel of sawdust over himself and proceeded to eat half a dozen raw eggs, shells and all.

Another nude sawdust groveller was working another part of the house. Then a gang of urban vandals leapt on an old car and smashed it to pieces. This was frightening but not half so terrifying as a series of explosions that rent the air, perforated my car-drums and sent me scurrying in search of

the sewers lately vacated by the mud-covered vermin. I bumped into an American restaurateur friend of mine. The banter was beautiful, she thought, but there had been a hitch: "I got spat on in a big way," she moaned, "by a performer. That was a low point in my enjoyment."

The nude embryos could be spied welding flaming torches up in the famous roof. They then fed the structure by slithering down a trapeze wire and hurling blood bags all over a large plastic sheet. By this time, buckets of paint had also been upturned as a some homewrecked the warehouse. Now it was all a bit like a 1960s happening and your correspondent really did feel like going home. After an hour, home we went, traversing tragically unpopulated acres of Shed 4 while the Catalan confidence-tricksters planned next week's assault on Madonia and Milan (last performance in desolate dockland tonight).

No sten here of that pagan joy and communicative bravado we so appreciated when the Catalan Els Comedians earned the summer IFT festival; this was pretentious, old-fashioned and decadent. The previous event in Shed 4 was a rich club dinner attended by 6,000. One day, Shed 4 might see a similar number at a great theatrical occasion. But not before a few pen talks, scrim downs and substitutions.

Michael Coveney

Solution to Chess No 595
1 Q-K3. If 1... K-B3: 2 Q-K7 or K-R3: 2 Q-N6 mate. If 1... K-R2: 2 Q-B7 ch and mate by 3 N-N6 or 3 N-N6.

Music

In Britten tradition

THE NAME of Faber & Faber is such a prestigious one in British book publishing that the existence of its musical sibling is sometimes overlooked. Yet Faber Music is thriving and celebrating the 20th anniversary of its foundation with a birthday concert in the Wigmore Hall last night (to be re-broadcast on Monday) and the publication of a collection of interviews with 20 British composers by Paul Griffiths, *New Sounds, New Personalities*. The selection includes six Faber composers: Jonathan Harvey, George Benjamin, David and Colin Matthews, Oliver Knussen and Nicholas Maw, Malcolm Arnold, Robert Simpson and Roger Smalley are among the other names now in the catalogue, and altogether they represent a significant chunk of British new music.

The company began, though, with Benjamin Britten. He had long cherished the dream of having his works published by Faber & Faber, which he associated with writers of the 1930s, whom he had worked for in the early 1960s he grew disaffected with his publisher of nearly 30 years' standing. Boosey & Hawkes, and persuaded Faber to take him on. Donald Mitchell, a Britten enthusiast and one-time Boosey employee, was hired to take charge of the new enterprise which started in the smallest way—just Mitchell and a secretary. Its output was similarly modest: the first score to be published was Britten's *Guitar Nocturnal*, followed over the next few years by works such as *The Church Parables*.

The broad and butter of any music publisher's revenue is its back catalogue. Where a lone-

established company like Boosey & Hawkes, for instance, has much of the music of Stravinsky, Bartok and Richard Strauss under its control to provide the wherewithal for new projects, Faber has had none of that, and has been compelled to move forward more circumspectly. It remains a small concern, with Mitchell as company chairman. He observes, rather ruefully, that one work in the catalogue like Britten's *Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra* (from his Boosey & Hawkes period) would have done much to ease the way; but at the same time he is proud of the fact that Faber is still unusual among music publishers in being run by musicians rather than accountants.

Nevertheless, along the way the company has had its money-spinners. Raymond Leppard's performing editions of Baroque operas by Monteverdi and Cavalli have, despite their controversy, brought in good royalties; so more recently has the score of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Cats*. And if Britten's later works lack the large-scale popular appeal of some of his earlier music the series of early pieces unearthed and published since his death in 1976 have both forced a significant revision of our ideas about the young composer's development and been widely performed. Works like the four French songs and *Young Apollo* promise to become established repertory pieces.

One of Britten's prime concerns in the new company was that it should have a responsible attitude towards the environment of young composers, and that has remained the central core of Faber's policy. If there

is the feeling that the Britten collection has influenced the kind of composer who is attracted to Faber and which the company itself finds sympathetic, Mitchell denies that there is any conscious aesthetic stance in their choice but admits that there could be a "house style" which is characterised by clarity and intelligibility, and by music to which audiences respond instinctively and positively. Certainly, the Aldeburgh Favour is strong in the Matthews Brothers (Colin was first taken up by Faber at Britten's suggestion) and extends now to the company's latest recruit, Peter Paul Nash.

The problem of any publisher of new music is the same. Taking on a composer is enormously expensive: the costs of preparing a new work for performance and the copying of scores are rarely covered by any commission. Even had his royalties been far larger, Mitchell doubts that he would have taken on many more than the stable of eight or so he currently has under contract; more funds would be difficult to provide with the personal attention he thinks they should get.

Doubtless the company will continue to expand, but there remains the feeling that it enjoys its present compact status. The notion of "a Faber composer" certainly means something: it conjures up the idea of a certain kind of musician, not especially radical, often unashamedly conservative, but always writing music with clean, logical outlines.

Andrew Clements

Radio

A stunning winter's tale

EMLYN Williams is 80 next week, and Radio 4 has properly scheduled four of his plays (two this past week, one tomorrow, one tomorrow week). I hope Mr Williams will forgive me if I do more than acknowledge them. They are well-known works, and some productions are repeats. But they are stage plays, and on Sunday Radio 4 gave an original radio production of such stunning brilliance that it must take precedence over anything else. This was Ronald Farnham's *Winter Journey*—strictly speaking also a repeat, but only for BBC Scotland.

The story is told simultaneously from three points. There is the straight forward narrative of Simon and Laura Tomlinson, he a diplomat in Prague, she his spoilt, ambitious wife living it up in London with their young daughter Annele. There are always celebrations at Christmas, and one year Simon takes them for a drive across Europe, from Prague to Salzburg, the road towards Munich, marital relations getting constantly worse. At last, in remote Bavaria, Simon is driven to crash his car. Laura is killed and Simon decamps, leaving a note for Annele revealing that he was a spy. (Clues to this have been neatly dropped in

throughout.) This story is seen mostly from Annele's viewpoint.

But we also hear an account in the child Annele's voice, and, besides that, a later commentary in the voice of adult Annele. The triple viewpoint is brilliantly harmonised, and the result is exciting and poignant. It is exceptionally well played under Patrick Kenner's direction, with Jane Asher as Laura, just the kind of woman who would call her child Annele, Tim Piggett-Smith as Simon and Annele Lanyon as the young Annele.

The Monday Play, designed around deliberately ordinary people doing ordinary things, could not compete. This was Alan Drury's *A Weekend Away*, about a mature woman (Rosemary Martin) at a holiday reunion in Scarborough, in a hotel with a strong touch of Butlin. A hint of romance ("May I kiss your forehead?") is brushed aside, and the woman returns to the home she shares with her mother (Elizabeth Spriggs), who had hoped for something better, but only got a wish from her daughter that their lives might be "more separate." Richard Wortley was the director. I thought he rather overdid the high jinks at Scarborough, but the acting was OK.

They have been promising me all the year that there would be two broadcasts each week of the *Food Programme*, but they forgot to tell me that neither of them would be in its proper place, before lunch on Sunday. No, we have it on Friday and Tuesday. Tuesday's "re-broadcast" as they say nowadays, was mainly about bread; Friday's, at midday, a rather better time than Tuesday's 4.15, dealt with the British wine industry. It remains a splendid programme, whenever it goes out. But the rescheduling threatens that Sunday's *Colour Supplement*, currently continuing unimproved, will go on.

While I am in a critical mood, I have to say that the marooning of Michael Parkinson on *Desert Island Discs* is an obvious misjudgment. Mr Parkinson has a positive, listenable voice, not a voice to share an island with. He can laugh his way through the *Sound Archives* all right (though I don't care for the programme much). I didn't care for *Desert Island Discs* much, very often, but always felt myself in congenial company. As I said when Roy Plomley died, much better to kill the programme, so very much his own, and think of something else.

B. A. Young

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Private view

Snubbed again

WEDNESDAY was prize-giving night for the 300-odd companies that sponsor the arts. Distributing the awards was the Duke of Gloucester, collecting them were directors of the 10 companies judged to have had the best arts ideas in the past year.

Unless, however, you were a reader of the Daily Telegraph, which happens to sponsor the occasion along with ABSA (the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts), the event will have passed you by. For the media is very reluctant to acknowledge the role that business plays in financing arts events: in fact, business is often the one thing that is most avidly through its arts sponsorship — public recognition.

The hardest nut is the BBC. There is a strict code for the Radio Times, which banishes the sponsor's name to the smallest type size, if it is mentioned at all. The corporation also fights against the new trend in arts sponsorship, known as "Own Label" events, like the Sainsbury Choir of the Year competition; these attempt to get round the antagonism of the media by making a plug for the company all but inevitable. Some producers, especially on Radio Three, manage to forget the name of the sponsor of an opera or concert.

The press is almost as bad. Many critics and writers on the arts are reluctant to mix the intellectual purity of a performance with mentioning something as earthy as commerce. There is also a feeling that arts sponsorship has become old news — partly because there is such an abundance of aided events, with sponsors trying harder than ever before to exploit the commercial value of their investment. This is seen to be at odds with old-fashioned, dispassionate patronage, and it seems to raise journalistic hackles.

So what instructive or entertaining stories does the public miss from the news blackout of the ABSA awards? It is not, perhaps, newsworthy that BP won its fourth award in eight years for its corporate programme; it is, after all, the biggest spender. It might have been expected that the contributions of Booker McConnell and Sainsbury would be recognised.

But what of Lederle Labora-

ories or the Midlands bakery firm of Coombs and Son? Here are worthy stories. Lederle makes drugs to treat cancer. It paid for dancers and musicians from Sadler's Wells and the Royal Opera House to perform in 26 hospital wards and hospices before an audience of patients.

Coombs is a chain with 11 bakery shops. It decided to sponsor the Christmas production at the Leicester Haymarket of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. It was a first-time venture and involved inventing a Willy Wonka cake, sold at its shops and in the theatre. Its goods were displayed in the foyer; and at each schools performance a birthday cake was provided. From a marketing point of view, here was money spent more effectively than on an advertising campaign.

Then, there was the Scottish Postal Board, a nationalised industry, supporting the arts in its area by providing Post Office vans or even aircraft to transport artists; and ICI's Agricultural Division which sponsored Nightshrike, a musical based on Macbeth and composed by a local Cleveland girl, Trisha Wood, aged 21. This was performed by 60 Cleveland youngsters, a third of them unemployed, along with the National Youth Theatre. And there was Allied Steel and Wire, which took a team from the Welsh National Opera to dockland Cardiff for 10 weeks.

When it comes to a new opera production at Covent Garden or Glyndebourne, the story here is newsworthy only if no sponsor is involved (a production costs a minimum of £100,000 and often is closer now to double that). Sometimes, though, a company can hit on the right eye-catching connection, like Cointreau's help for The Love of Three Oranges at Glyndebourne.

Sponsors of the arts cannot, and should not, automatically expect media coverage. But, on many occasions, newspapers and television have an irrational dislike of the piper who pays for the tune. In the process, we not only jeopardise the survival of some arts events but also miss good stories.

Antony Thornicroft

Sport



No 70: William "The Refrigerator" Perry

Monolith among monsters

AN UNLIKELY folk hero in the gargantuan shape of William Perry, a 23-year-old defensive tackle, used on occasions in attack by the unbeaten Chicago Bears, has rumbled on to the American football scene this season to enliven a sport that, like professional golf here, had appeared to have reached a stifling state of parity.

Perry, one of 11 children of a black house painter from Aiken, South Carolina, and his wife, who cleaned houses to help put 10 of those children through college, is 6 ft 2 ins tall and yet tips the scales at about 25 stone.

I am advisedly vague about that weight because when rookie Perry, a first round draft choice from Clemson University, also in South Carolina, checked in at Chicago's pre-season training camp he sent the scales soaring to a blubbery 28 stone and was promptly ordered to do something about it or else. Strict and supervised dieting quickly

melted away about seven stone. But when Perry then went into serious training, including weight lifting, his adiposity quickly increased again as muscle replaced fat.

Now this engaging, zap-toothed young man, nicknamed "the refrigerator," has been besieged by commercial offers, chiefly from manufacturers of that kitchen appliance that is so much an integral part of American life, the contents of which Perry can easily devour at a single sitting.

His agent is sitting back and plainly enjoying the incredible media hype and public adoration of his client as the offers pour in. They tend to overshadow the huge youngster's considerable athletic ability, not to speak of his massive strength, unlikely speed and, believe it or not, lightness of foot.

I came face to face with "the refrigerator" last Sunday for a brief moment on the artificial turf of Texas Stadium in Dallas

as both teams warmed up in a noisy cauldron where many good judges expected the bears' ten game winning streak to be rudely ended by what is widely known as "America's team," the beloved Dallas Cowboys. Thankfully our meeting went no further than a perfunctory handshake and an exchange of pleasantries. But I saw for myself that Perry is quite monolithic in a sport populated largely by mere monsters.

The ensuing match seen on national television became a rout that created several unwanted records for the home club as the Bears mauled them by 44 points to 11 in front of a sell out crowd of 63,855 spectators, all comfortably seated in a magnificent double decker stadium, or in two more tiers of enclosed private or corporate boxes.

The Cowboys had last failed to score a point exactly 15 years and 219 games previously. Their two equal worst previous defeats in their 26 years history

had been by 41 points. Their two equal worst previous defeats at home had been by 21 points. The Cowboys' attack on Sunday never got nearer to scoring a touchdown — or try in rugby parlance — than the Bears' 37 yards line.

Some soccer crowds, whose heroes had been humiliated so completely might have gone on a rampage. Instead the largely Texan crowd who chose to remain until the fourth quarter, at which stage Chicago led by 27 points stopped booing their fallen idols, and substituted frantic cheers for the Bears' two final touchdowns. A professor of psychology of my acquaintance believes that footballism is virtually unknown here because American football is violent enough to satisfy even the most primitive urges of its most primitive spectators.

Certainly it is the aim of every defence to put the opposition's quarter back — a team's generalissimo, playmaker and passer — out of the game. This time Chicago achieved twice last week's feat and protected Danny Snyman because the Dallas offensive or stop the rampaging Bears' linebacker Otis Wilson. Wilson twice smashed the hapless White, concussing him in the first half and then, when the Dallas quarterback bravely returned sending him permanently to the dressing room with a jammed neck.

But even those who love the sustained savagery of the American game must have been sickened last Monday night when the oldest quarterback in the league, 36-year-old Joe Theismann of the Washington Redskins suffered an open compound fracture of both major bones in his right leg and some further cracks in the leg against New York Giants. The incident was replayed by the television network covering the game just in case the ghoul had missed it first time around.

There is much more to the game than pure violence, however. To watch a wide receiver at full speed take off like a ballet dancer to catch a pass thrown a little high, although he knows a very heavy hit will follow, or to watch a world class running back like Chicago's Walter Payton jinking through a defence or taking on the defenders can be magic. Payton, is widely recognised

at 31 as the most complete player of all time. In addition to throwing and catching passes, and his immaculate blocking for his team mates, this superb athlete ran for a total of 132 yards on 22 carries for his league record ninth 1,000-yards rushing season in 11 years, and an all time leading personal total of 14,392 yards.

How these Americans love statistics. But when one considers that Payton was a virtual one-man team in Chicago for so many years the statistics are all the more remarkable. Tony Dorsett, the Cowboy running back who is regarded as almost the equal of Payton, but in a more elusive and less physical manner, gained but 44 yards on 12 carries in Sunday's debacle, the first of which, early in the game was responsible for 22 of the statistics can do lie, but this particular collection fairly indicates the overwhelming superiority of the big bad Bears, who may well become this game's next, eagerly awaited dynasty.

Ben Wright

Women's scrum

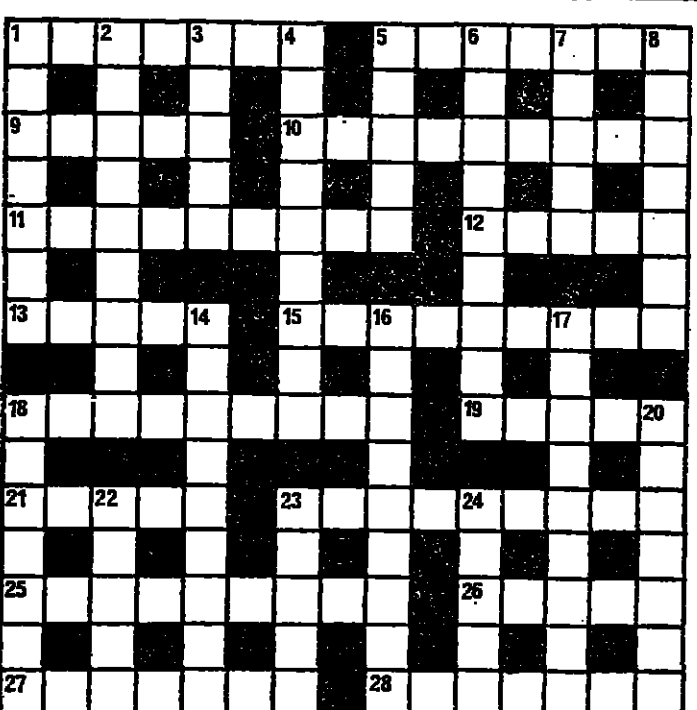
LET'S get one thing straight. The Women's Rugby Football Union takes the game very seriously. And, no, its teams don't play against men.

"It's far too dangerous," says Tricia Moore, WRFU Press officer. She is a second-row forward with Finchley, north London, one of 35 women's teams in the UK. Aged 24, she stands 5 ft 7 in and 11½ stone and started to play the game while reading English at York University. I came from a rugby family, and I'd always wanted to have a go."

Women's rugby has been going in Britain for about 10 years, and most of the players, according to Tricia, are graduates aged between 21 and 28.

Tomorrow the strength of the women's game in this country will be demonstrated when 24 club sides take part in a 15-a-side knock-out tournament at University College, London's ground of Sherrin, Herts. Plans are also in hand for a first international between the UK and France to be held at the Richmond Athletic Ground in April.

John Kitching

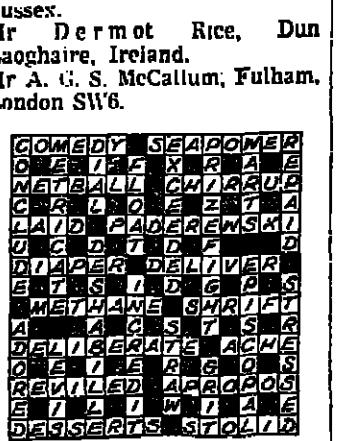


F.T. CROSSWORD PUZZLE No. 5881

Prizes of £10 each for the first five correct solutions, opened Saturday, will be received by post Thursday, 10 Cannon Street, London EC4P 4BY. Solution next Saturday.

- ACROSS**
- Well-loved bounties that feed Americans? (7)
 - It is put down in river-bed or banks? (7)
 - No end to an enticement I had—what? (5)
 - Piece of tape all right for you? There could be a jogger in it (5, 4)
 - Companion, first-class, and terrible first—this will get you to the top (5, 4)
 - Suitable material for sofa seat? (5)
 - Ask for terms: you'll enjoy it! (5)
 - Casts a spell on means of access (9)
 - Planet unfinished, date unsettled, very wet (8)
 - V as in Beethoven's (5)
 - Sprinkle water onto saint of North-East and West (5)
 - Boat with accents given messy part (3, 6)
 - Flare that sounds like ruin and confusion (4)
 - Tree harmful at bottom? (5)
 - Footballer who isn't playing? (7)
 - Standing on two feet makes animal gasp (7)
- DOWN**
- Place to wound an animal (7)
 - A way they have in BR (9)
 - Arrangements that's laid down (5)
 - Food from inn: mutter if disorganised (9)
 - Gave out cards on wooden table-top (5)
 - Plain type of fish on stick (9)
 - More waggons to avoid junction (5)
 - It's dangerous to put leather in rising fast (7)
 - Reminding of ancestor to golden fish? (9)
 - Derated by mistake: Pool? (5, 4)
 - D.I.Y. Place to eat if care is taken (8)
 - Survay, apart from islands, 10 Bolham's work, perhaps, seriously affected (4, 3)
 - Rendering of horn, by the look of things (5)
 - Cheap paper from America turning up in a lump? (5)
 - Book whose opening is in a lump (page missing) (5)

Solution to Puzzle No. 5880



Solution and winners of Puzzle No. 5875

Mrs J. Richards, Hythe, Kent. Mrs J. M. Price, Brigg, South Humbershire.

Mrs I. Barlow, Steyning, West Sussex.

Mr Dermot Rice, Dun Laoghaire, Ireland.

Mr A. C. S. McCallum, Fulham, London SW6.

SATURDAY

† Indicates programme in black and white

BBC 1

6.30 am What's-Mess 8.35 Children of Fur Mountain 8.50 Saturday Superstore 12.15 pm Grandstand, including 1.00 News Summary: Football Focus: Racing from Newbury (at 12.45, 1.15 and 1.55) Snooker: Coral UK Professional Championship: Rugby League (Hull vs Hull Kingston Rovers); and at 4.40 Classified Results.

5.05 News 5.15 Regional Programmes 5.20 The Tipids 5.45 Terry and June 6.15 The Noel Edmonds Late Breakfast Show 7.05 Bob's Full House 7.45 Juliet Bravo 8.35 Only Fools and Horses 9.05 News and Sport 9.20 Murder One: Prime Suspect 10.35 Snooker: The Coral United Kingdom Championship.

BBC 2

12.15 pm Open University 11.30 Saturday Night Double Bill (Till "Criminal Court" (Tom Conway and Martha O'Driscoll star); and at 12.30 "Not As a Stranger" with Robert Mitchum Oliver de Havilland, Frank Sinatra and Gloria Grahame 4.40 Snooker 6.20 Deutsch Direkt 6.45 World Chess Championship—live! 7.30 and Sport 7.45 Saturday Review 8.35 Tippett at Malvern 9.45 Outside the Window 10.35 Rugby League 10.55 12.50 am Francesco Rossi Season: "The Matter Affair" starring Gian Maria Volonté (Italian film with English subtitles).



Boris Karloff: C4, 11.45

Here and Michael Robbins 4.45 Results Service 5.05 News 5.05 Blackbustlers 5.35 The A-Team 6.30 Child's Play 7.00 Game For a Laugh 7.45 9.2-1, 8.45 News 8.00 The Professionals 10.00 Time For Murder 11.00 LWT News Headlines followed by Movie Premieres: 11.00 Movie Premiere: "The Postman Always Rings Twice" starring Jack Nicholson and Jessica Lange 12.10 am That's Hollywood 12.35 at the End of the Day.

CHANNEL 4

12.50 pm Channel 4 Racing from Ayr 12.45 "The Circle Game" starring Noddy Holder, Rickie Lauchlin and Nigel Henson 1.00 The Professionals 10.00 Time For Murder 11.00 LWT News Headlines followed by Movie Premieres: 11.00 Movie Premiere: "The Postman Always Rings Twice" starring Jack Nicholson and Jessica Lange 12.10 am That's Hollywood 12.35 at the End of the Day.

LONDON

6.55 am TV-am Breakfast Programme 9.25 11.00 am Terrahawks 11.30 Mr Smith 12.10 News 12.05 pm Saint 1.00 News 1.05 pm The Muppet Show 1.10 pm The Muppet Show 1.15 pm The Muppet Show 1.20 pm The Muppet Show 1.25 pm The Muppet Show 1.30 pm The Muppet Show 1.35 pm The Muppet Show 1.40 pm The Muppet Show 1.45 pm The Muppet Show 1.50 pm The Muppet Show 1.55 pm The Muppet Show 2.00 pm The Muppet Show 2.05 pm The Muppet Show 2.10 pm The Muppet Show 2.15 pm The Muppet Show 2.20 pm The Muppet Show 2.25 pm The Muppet Show 2.30 pm The Muppet Show 2.35 pm The Muppet Show 2.40 pm The Muppet Show 2.45 pm The Muppet Show 2.50 pm The Muppet Show 2.55 pm The Muppet Show 3.00 pm The Muppet Show 3.05 pm The Muppet Show 3.10 pm The Muppet Show 3.15 pm The Muppet Show 3.20 pm The Muppet Show 3.25 pm The Muppet Show 3.30 pm The Muppet Show 3.35 pm The Muppet Show 3.40 pm The Muppet Show 3.45 pm The Muppet Show 3.50 pm The Muppet Show 3.55 pm The Muppet Show 4.00 pm The Muppet Show 4.05 pm The Muppet Show 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